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Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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CONTENTS

	Page
Astronautics and Extra-terrestrial Civilizations: Professor Krasovskiy ...	3
UFOs and Artificial Satellites: E. R. Smith	6
Claimants, Ridicule and a Piece of Cake: Waveney Girvan	12
The Loch Ness Monster ...	15
Mystery at Jodrell Bank ...	16
A Brazilian Contact Claim: Professor Guimaraes ...	18
Book Reviews	21
Father Gill and the Rev. Lionel Browning	23
Lights Over Hertfordshire	25
World Round Up	26
Mail Bag	31

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Science and Authority

WHEN it has been suggested in the past that we suffer from a prejudice against science, we have always denied the charge. Whatever goes to make a scientist (as distinct from an ordinary human being) has seemed to us admirable: the training undergone, the caution engendered and the methods employed have all appeared to us to be beyond criticism. Some of our best friends are scientists. Not a few of them have written for this REVIEW. And yet—we must admit to an irritation that is beginning to grow upon us. We do find that those scientists in positions of authority are turning out to be something rather less than trustworthy in our eyes.

Science—with a capital S—is a meaningless term. With a small s it means knowledge, and nothing more. In the modern sense of the word and in the public mind, however, it represents absolute knowledge and pontifical authority. Our quarrel is with Authority—with a capital A. When Science and Authority combine, we find the partnership quite intolerable.

One of our scientific contributors (with whom we have no real quarrel) made the remark that scientists were naturally reluctant to take an interest in flying saucers because, among other reasons, it was a field in which there had occurred a number of admitted hoaxes. And why, pray, just for that reason should scientists (or plumbers, or midwives, or quantity surveyors, for that matter) avoid a subject because it is one that has attracted the hoaxer? Have the scientists no powers of discrimination? Have they placed themselves on such a pedestal that they fail to take human nature into account? Have they forgotten that humanity on occasion inclines to the mischievous? Incidentally, the scientists are not invariably so immaculate as they pretend. They are not always scandalised by fraud: how many scientists, for instance, abandoned the worship of Darwinism when the Piltdown Skull was finally proved to be a fake—a fake, by the way, perpetrated in all likelihood by one of their own number? Why should a scientist refuse to take flying saucers seriously merely because some ill-advised persons have pretended to have seen a UFO when they hadn't? Why should a scientist pretend to an immunity from error, an immunity which he would deny, in similar circumstances, to a clergyman or a lawyer? Cannot the scientist distinguish between the wheat and the chaff? What, indeed, is the purpose of Science with a capital S? Is it to acquire knowledge or is it to frustrate the discovery of all that is at present unknown? Is it

always forced to fall back upon some spurious excuse for not investigating certain subjects at all? These questions—and the impatience behind them—are prompted by two events, both fully reported elsewhere in this issue.

We do not pretend to know from what source the messages recorded at Jodrell Bank[1] emanated. In all probability, we shall never know what Professor Alla Masevich really thought or why Sir Bernard Lovell and his colleagues were so startled when she suggested that certain signals might have emanated from Venus itself. Nor shall we ever know the truth about the mystery object that remained stationary over Exeter[2] for an hour or more in the face of a westerly wind that prevailed during the whole of the period during which it was observed by hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of people. In both cases Authority has spoken. Professor Masevich was joking and all earlier pronouncement about the signals at Jodrell Bank must be discounted: the Exeter object was a balloon, though nobody will say whose. The newspapers, with a singular gullibility and faith in Authority, have broadcast the inaccuracies and have added a few of their own. The public at large is satisfied that yet another mystery has been solved—with the tragic result that the solution so earnestly desired by many a pioneer remains frustrated. Purblind Authority has once again triumphed: Science, which could help so much, has prevented investigation by assuring us that there is no mystery to solve. And if a member of the public attempts to raise his voice in protest, he will be disregarded and the distortions allowed to remain on the record. It is very seldom that a newspaper will print a correction once Authority has spoken. How indignant we become when some foreign dictator is seen to be feeding his subjects with distorted news. And yet how many of those who live in a democracy realise that on the subject of UFOs their diet is not wholly pure?

We have often been advised that the best way to arrive at the truth of our subject is to adopt a strictly scientific approach, but we fear that we must reject that method as being much too narrow. The treatment of the incidents referred to above by Science and Authority must serve as warnings. Only the philosophical approach offers any chance of success, for it can embrace the best that science has to offer with the broad humanitarian view. After all, we have to study human beings as well as UFOs, for it is through the eyes of our fellow beings that we have to observe the mysteries of the sky. Included in our study, too, are the scientists themselves; their funny ways when confronted with the unexpected and their inability, on occasion, to entertain the possibility that anything can be unknown. Authority would like to maintain that most people are either liars or deluded when they claim to have seen a flying saucer. The philosophical approach, however, has taught us that the ordinary man and woman are on the whole both truthful and reasonably accurate—and that Authority can be an ass. These are facts that the strictly scientific approach seems to ignore. "Man, know thyself," is an injunction often forgotten by those who are most determined to be objective. We exclude, of course, a number of scientists from this general castigation: there are many who accept the truth that we have strangers in our skies. We intend a compliment when we prefer to call them philosophers rather than scientists. The study of science has tended to become too specialist: only a philosopher could be expected to find the answer to a problem so bewildering and so complex.

The circulation of this REVIEW, by the standards of our daily press, is minute. We believe, however, that in time to come its pages will be studied by researchers of the future anxious to trace the development of one of the most important stories of our time. That researcher will note that Authority when it spoke about the saucers revealed an innate fear. It was not just the fear of ridicule that held the pundit back and made the clever man say stupid things—the fear went deeper than that. When Authority was first confronted with our mystery it spoke too soon, and, having said that the subject was nonsensical, it now suffers the worst fear of all—that of being proved wrong. Here in our pages, however, will be found the names and the positions held by those scientists who scoffed—forever caught, we hope, in the pillory of the printed word. Authority has in the past chosen to fight our duel with ridicule and has thereby made us the present of a two-edged sword. It is time we started to answer back.

In our next issue we shall reply to one of those hostile to our subject who, taking his cue from Authority, has assumed that only madmen can believe in UFOs.

[1] See page 16 of this issue.
[2] See page 27 of this issue.

ASTRONAUTICS AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS

By Professor Krasovskiy, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

TRANSLATION BY
G.W. CREIGHTON

This article has been translated by Gordon W. Creighton from the May 4 issue of *Izvestia*, published in Moscow. Our translator comments that the article can be considered very significant, not only because *Izvestia* is the organ of the Soviet parliament, but also because the editor is Kruschev's son-in-law. The version that follows is a condensation of a much longer treatise appearing on the back page of the paper, which is considered to be the most important for it is the one for people who think and see a little deeper: Professor Krasovskiy's views could well have been published as a piece of careful conditioning.

WHAT are our objectives in the conquest of extra-terrestrial space? Does life exist on other worlds—and highly evolved civilisations? Is communication with them possible? And is it not already possible, even now, to receive intelligent signals?

Unfortunately, the time is not yet ripe for giving exhaustive replies to all these questions. Nobody, however, can doubt that very shortly space-ships—either carrying highly effective automatic equipment or carrying astronauts—will penetrate the expanses of our solar system. By then we shall know a great deal more than we do now.

The evidence at present available to us as to the physical and chemical conditions on the planets of our solar system tends rather towards denying the possibility of the existence not only of animal life but even of vegetable life. Only on Mars does it appear that some degree of primitive vegetation is possible. But not so very long ago some of the reports concerning Mars, for instance about its "canals," furnished grounds for postulating the existence there of contemporary intelligent beings. And even right down to the present time many enigmatic phenomena on Mars remain unexplained and provide grounds for theories that intelligent life existed there in the past.

But, could a highly evolved civilisation ever have existed at all on Mars? Let us recall the two theories about the origins of the planets. According to the first of these theories, they were formed as a result of the condensation of the material of incandescent gases. Each such planet began by having a very high temperature. Life could only appear when their surfaces had cooled down a few tens of degrees centigrade. Mars is smaller than the earth, and so it could have cooled off sooner. And that means that life could have appeared on Mars earlier and could be millions, indeed thousands of millions of years further advanced there than the life on our earth. But later, the favourable conditions for the existence of life on Mars could have disappeared. According to the first theory, owing to the insufficient gravity of Mars, that planet rapidly lost its atmospheric envelope of gases so essential for life, namely oxygen and water vapour.

Collision of meteorites

The other theory, however, gives us an entirely different picture. The supporters of this picture maintain that the planets came into being as the result of the union of cold meteorites meeting in collision. In such a case, the initial temperature will have been low, possibly even lower than 0° centigrade. Gradually, as the result of radio-active processes and the combustion of individual conglomerates of meteorites under the influence of the tremendous power of gravity, the temperature began to rise. In this way, one arrives at the con-

clusion that only now, or quite recently, will the temperature on Mars have risen to the level essential for the appearance of the first organisms, i.e. microbes and primitive plants.

Both these theories have been the subject of lively debate and there is still no single generally accepted view regarding the origin of the planets.

If we assume that in the past there existed on Mars conditions suitable for the appearance of intelligent beings, what would have become of such beings by now? Let us just imagine what might happen on our earth today if we were threatened by a cosmic disaster capable of destroying our atmosphere and putting an end to our planet. Contemporary mankind is capable not only of fighting all known kinds of calamities, but also is ready to deal with something significantly beyond that. Already we possess the technical ability to create vast air-tight subterranean chambers furnished with supplies of compressed air, water and sources of nuclear and thermo-nuclear energy. In such subterranean shelters it would be possible to live and to grow the plants essential both for food and for the generation of oxygen from carbon-dioxide. If Martians existed, that is precisely what they would have done when threatened with extinction on the surface of their planet.

The quest for knowledge

No cosmic catostrophe threatens us. Why, then, is Man trying to pass beyond the limits of the earth? The surface of Mars is not favourable for human life. If we want to expand it would be easier to cover the seas with rafts than to travel to other planets and build subterranean chambers. Even the mining of useful minerals on other planets would not be a paying proposition in view of the high cost of transportation. It is obvious, therefore, that the purpose of Man's venturing into space must be primarily for the acquisition of knowledge about the Universe around us and of past and present cosmic civilisations, if it be that such exist or have existed.

Journeys within our solar system by rockets with existing types of jet engines still lie some years ahead of us, but a journey by such means to even the nearest star-system would take the lifetimes of several generations. Consequently, the most important requirement, if we are to travel outside the solar system, is the attainment of the greatest possible speed for our space-craft. At the present time many important scientists are busily working on the theory of the so-called photon-rocket. It is conjectured that by means of intensive emanations of light it will be possible to attain velocities in the neighbourhood of the speed of light.

Although it is not possible yet to build a photon-rocket, it is nevertheless not difficult to describe the conditions of its flight. All this has already been done, in special writings at the very highest scientific level. The time elapsing between the departure of travellers for very distant parts of the Universe and their return to Earth may turn out to be so long that even the very idea of returning loses any meaning. For, after millions or hundreds of millions of years, the civilisation now existing on the Earth could have totally disappeared.

From the point of view of the theory of relativity, which has been verified in practice, the photon-drive astronauts in their inter-stellar ship travelling at a speed close to that of light will experience a marked slowing down of the passage of time and, it follows, of the ageing of their organisms: the faster the speed the more this will be the case. Such astronauts will be lucky enough to survive to see the goal for which they sought.[1]

Detection of signals

Although we are today living at a time of immense achievements in the conquest of space, we are nevertheless only at the beginning. Consequently, in our notions about journeys outside our solar system and about extra-terrestrial civilisations, there is more of fantasy and guesswork than there is of definite data and of technical possibilities. Would it not, therefore, be easier at our present stage of Earth civilisation to try to detect signals which, it may well be, are sent out by the inhabitants of distant worlds?

Already much research is being devoted to the question of which kinds of radio-waves are the most suitable for such signalling. Human beings have always loved—and still love—to erect grandiose monuments in the hope of preserving for future generations the knowledge of themselves and their deeds. Other intelligent beings, dwelling somewhere or other out beyond the confines of our Earth, may well have done the same. There can be no doubt whatever that, if they possess sufficient power resources, they are in a position to transmit pictures by radio-telegraphy to other worlds. Such signals can be deciphered, just as we deciphered the signals portraying the features of the other side of the Moon sent out by our famous Soviet inter-planetary station. In this way, in the course of the year images of a very high degree of clarity could be secured. Over the course of several years a vast body of information about other worlds could be built up.

The gaps in our knowledge about the Universe are frequently filled by guesswork and our impatience pushes us on into a multiplicity of tech-

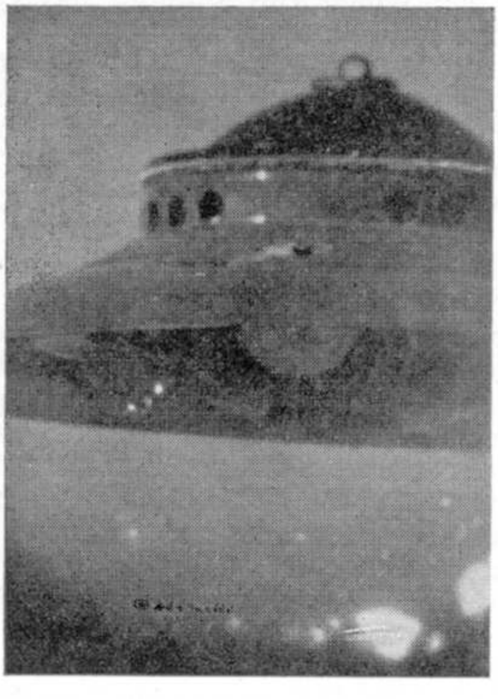
nical projects. And although it is necessary to approach many of these projects with the utmost circumspection, nevertheless the whole subject is of such great interest that they cannot be passed by in silence.

For example, certain scientists think that the most intelligent way of giving information about ourselves would be to send off into space a number of special small rockets equipped with tape-recordings giving the necessary details about us and with wireless transmitters operated by electrical energy derived from light. Such instruments will be able to fly close to the stars. And if there are at that time highly-evolved inhabitants on the planets of such stars, it will not be difficult for them to pick up the radio messages relaying the information contained in the tapes.

In concluding this cursory survey of the various questions raised at the beginning of my article, it is important to note that the farther the imagination of Man is directed away from the Earth, the vaguer are the prognostications as to the appearance of intelligent beings in the Cosmos and the greater is the danger of falling into the course of groundless fatasies. To avoid this danger, we need many more years of scientific investigation and in the meantime we must wait patiently for the final results. But excessive scepticism is just as bad as inordinate optimism. In any case, every detail that comes our way must be carefully and fully analysed for any clue that may throw light on the questions raised in this article. This will inevitably require the collation of all data secured from the various fields of knowledge. As for the future, it can be taken as certain that our successes in study of cosmic space will go on growing steadily.

[1] There is, however, a contrary view. It has been well stated by our reader, P. R. Silverman, in Mail Bag in the November-December, 1960, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.—Editor.

PHOTOGRAPHS



The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).

1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

When ordering please give numbers of photographs. Send order with remittance to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1, England.

UFOs and Artificial Satellites

by E. R. SMITH

The purpose of this article is to introduce students of flying saucers to some of the conventional methods of observing things seen in the sky. Artificial satellites are a fairly recent addition to celestial objects and they present interesting and challenging observational problems. The confusion of satellites with UFOs—and vice versa—also requires attention. It is hoped that this article will help not only to avoid misleading reports, but also to explode equally misleading "explanations" when a true flying saucer is observed.

Abstract

The preliminary problems associated with satellite observation are considered and methods for quantitatively ascertaining the angular position of a satellite at a discrete time are described.

Photographic techniques together with the limitations which are imposed on the photographer by virtue of equipment cost, suitability of photographic materials and optical resolution are discussed.

The view is taken that it may be possible to organise "UFO observation nights" in such a manner as to obtain accurate information on the behaviour of UFOs, and the preceding remarks on artificial satellite observations should be of assistance in this work.

It is tentatively suggested that UFO spotting teams may be organised to obtain photogrammetric records of the phenomena.

THE first stages in the observation of artificial satellites present one with a number of problems which can be summarised by the following questions:

(1) Where am I to look in order to observe a satellite?

(2) At what time should I look in this direction?

(3) How bright will the satellite be and will optical aids be necessary to see it?

(4) How fast can I expect the satellite to move?

The newcomer to satellite observations should ensure that he is familiar with the main constellations and at this stage it is convenient to use a simple star guide such as *The Times* "The Night Sky," which is published annually and gives month-by-month information on the stars and planets.

Having obtained some idea of the position and form of the main constellations it is a relatively simple process to start making satellite observations using the predictions in the *Daily Telegraph*.

As a guide to brightness it can be said that the Echo satellite is about as bright as most medium brightness stars. This, however, is brighter than can generally be expected due to the larger reflecting surface[1] which this satellite has compared with that of "non-inflated" ones.

With regard to the speed of satellites, one may say for guidance that Echo 1 may describe as little as, say, $\frac{1}{4}°$ of arc per minute (and looks rather like a light on a high-flying aircraft). The theoretical maximum is about $2\frac{1}{2}°$ of arc per minute (for a satellite at low altitude in an eccentric orbit).

While the above remarks, addressed in the main to newcomers to satellite observations, should prove a sufficient guide for the brighter satellites to be observed, a more stringent procedure is desirable for the observation of fainter objects. Accurate predictions are necessary and, in addition, optical assistance is usually required. Prediction sheets obtainable from the D.S.I.R. enable one to make a good estimate of a satellite elevation and azimuth, and the height predictions in these allow one to calcuate elevation using the Table on the next page.

With the aid of predictions one can then direct suitable optical aids on to parts of the sky where the satellite is due to appear. Errors in the esti-

TABLE: ELEVATION OF SATELLITE IN DEGREES

Height of Satellite	Great circle distance in statute miles between observer and point on earth's surface vertically beneath the satellite													
	50	75	100	150	200	300	400	500	750	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000
Statute miles														
100	61.5	54.1	43.8	34.6	25.2	16.7	11.4	7.3						
150	71.2	63.2	56.5	43.2	35.4	27.9	18.3	12.9	6.9					
200	75.4	68.8	62.4	53.3	43.8	31.8	23.3	17.7	9.4					
300	80.1	75.5	70.4	62.1	54.7	42.0	33.8	27.0	16.0	8.3				
400	82.2	78.4	74.5	67.7	61.1	50.2	41.1	33.4	21.1	13.2	3.2			
500	83.8	80.4	77.4	71.2	65.8	55.6	47.2	39.7	26.8	17.7	6.7			
750	85.5	83.2	81.0	76.7	72.4	64.6	57.0	48.2	36.9	26.8	13.3	3.8		
1000	86.3	84.6	82.8	79.2	76.0	69.3	63.2	57.0	44.4	34.0	19.6	9.0		
1500	87.4	86.1	84.7	82.2	79.6	74.5	69.7	64.7	53.8	44.3	28.7	17.1	8.0	
2000	87.85	86.75	85.7	83.6	81.5	77.2	73.2	69.0	59.5	50.5	35.7	23.4	13.6	5.2

Approximate accuracy for the above is:
From 45°-90° ±0.2°
From 10°-45° ±0.5°
Angles of elevation much less than 10° are not included.

mates and gradual changes away from the predicted orbit demand that a fairly large portion of the sky is scanned and for this reason wide angle telescopes[2] and field glasses are ideally suited to the task.

The British Interplanetary Society Midlands Moonwatch Team have devised a simple mounting[3] for an elbow telescope which should act as a convenient model for the design of an elevation setting device, while in King-Hele's recent book[4] a method is given for overcoming errors in orbit predictions by using an extra wide angle coverage system incorporating several telescopes (see Fig. 1).

The usual method for fixing the position of a satellite is to time its passage between two easily

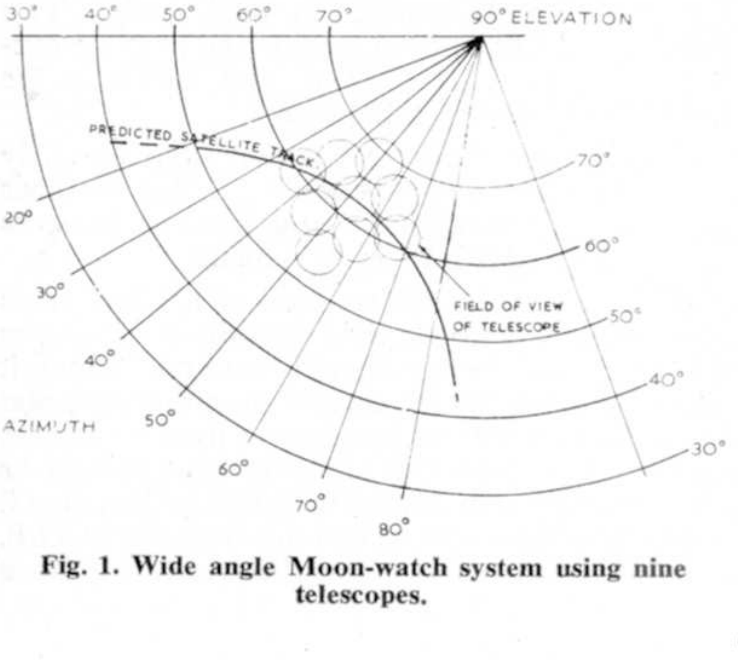


Fig. 1. Wide angle Moon-watch system using nine telescopes.

identified stars, and to estimate the ratio of distances between the satellite and each of the stars at the instant when the satellite crosses an imaginary line joining the stars (see Fig. 2). By the use of a split action stopwatch more than one fix is possible and a double time check may be made using TIM or the B.B.C. time signal. This should give an accuracy of timing for each observation to something like 3/5th sec. and for very skilled observers perhaps to 1/5th sec., but it still does not come within the "accurate" range of observations.

Automatic methods are necessary to ensure high accuracy, and it was indeed the question of accuracy that encouraged me to study the possibility of devising a cheap and accurate approach for the amateur, using photographic techniques. Discussion of these techniques follows.

Photography of satellites

It may be considered that the photography of satellites and stars requires very special equipment, but this is not wholly true. Dr. M. J. Smyth[5] has shown how excellent photographs can be taken of the brighter satellites with a 35-mm. film camera. Admittedly this has a 5-cm. f/2 lens, but cameras which can be obtained for between £10 and £20 should also produce good results. In addition to showing that these photographs can be taken satisfactorily by amateurs using relatively inexpensive equipment, Dr. Smyth has produced a photograph on which time identification "pips" are produced on the track on the

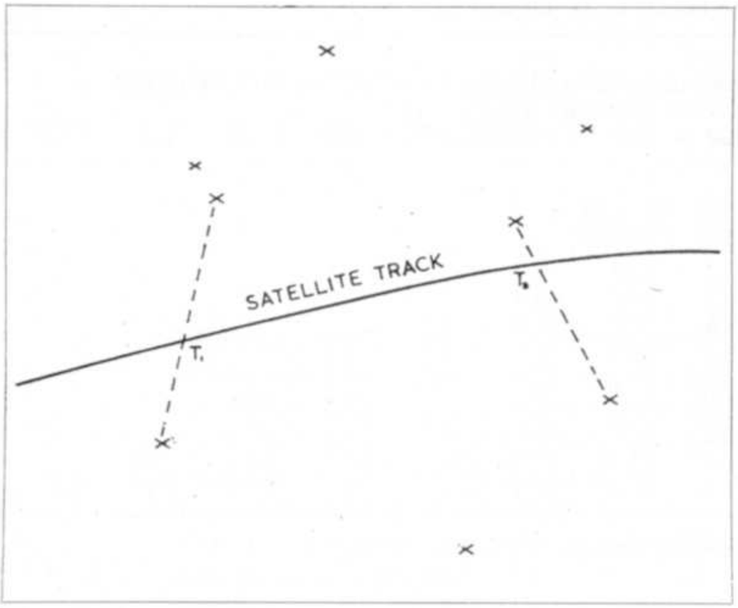


Fig. 2. STOPWATCH TIMING OF SATELLITES.
Times T_1 and T_2 are taken when the satellite crosses imaginary lines joining suitably positioned stars. The distances along the lines of the intersection are also noted. A number of such time and position estimates may be made if a split-action stopwatch is used.

photograph which the passage of the satellite left during the 20-second exposure on Kodak Tri X film. These " pips " were made by the actuation of a solenoid to jog the camera at second intervals. These second timing pulses were taken from the Observatory time system.

Another method used to time mark a satellite photograph is illustrated in the December, 1958, copy of *Sky and Telescope*[6], where a photograph of Sputnik III has been taken at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory using an occulting shutter to interrupt periodically the satellite track, thus leaving a time identification through the " stops and starts " in the track. In this case, however, very special timing equipment was not used, W.W.V. Broadcast Time signals being recorded and compared with the recorded time of the chopper marks provided through a cam-operated microswitch.

The above data on photographic techniques have led to the following concepts for producing a fairly cheap rig suitable for an amateur to make accurate photographic observations. Reference time used is the M.S.F. Rugby signal, picked up on a simple radio receiver and amplified sufficiently to drive a light relay or solenoid on to which is soldered a recording pen. This records on a " home-made " recorder driven at about two inches per second by, say, an old gramophone motor, and serves to standardise one's own timing source (for example, an old pendulum clock suitably wired to give second and minute pulses). When one wishes to start an exposure, the shutter is first opened and then an external occulting blade is spun at moderate speed in front of the camera lens; every time this blade passes the lens the circuit is made, which actuates the second channel on the " pen recorder "—thus providing a complete record of the occultations of the exterior shutter. A timing accuracy of 1/10th sec. should easily be accomplished. For diagrammatic representation of this scheme, see Fig. 3.

The writer considers that such a rig used with discretion would enable one to produce photographs suitable for ephemerides or final orbital analysis. Such data is extremely useful and amateur observations are by no means to be scorned. Addresses of a few interested bodies are given on page 11[7].

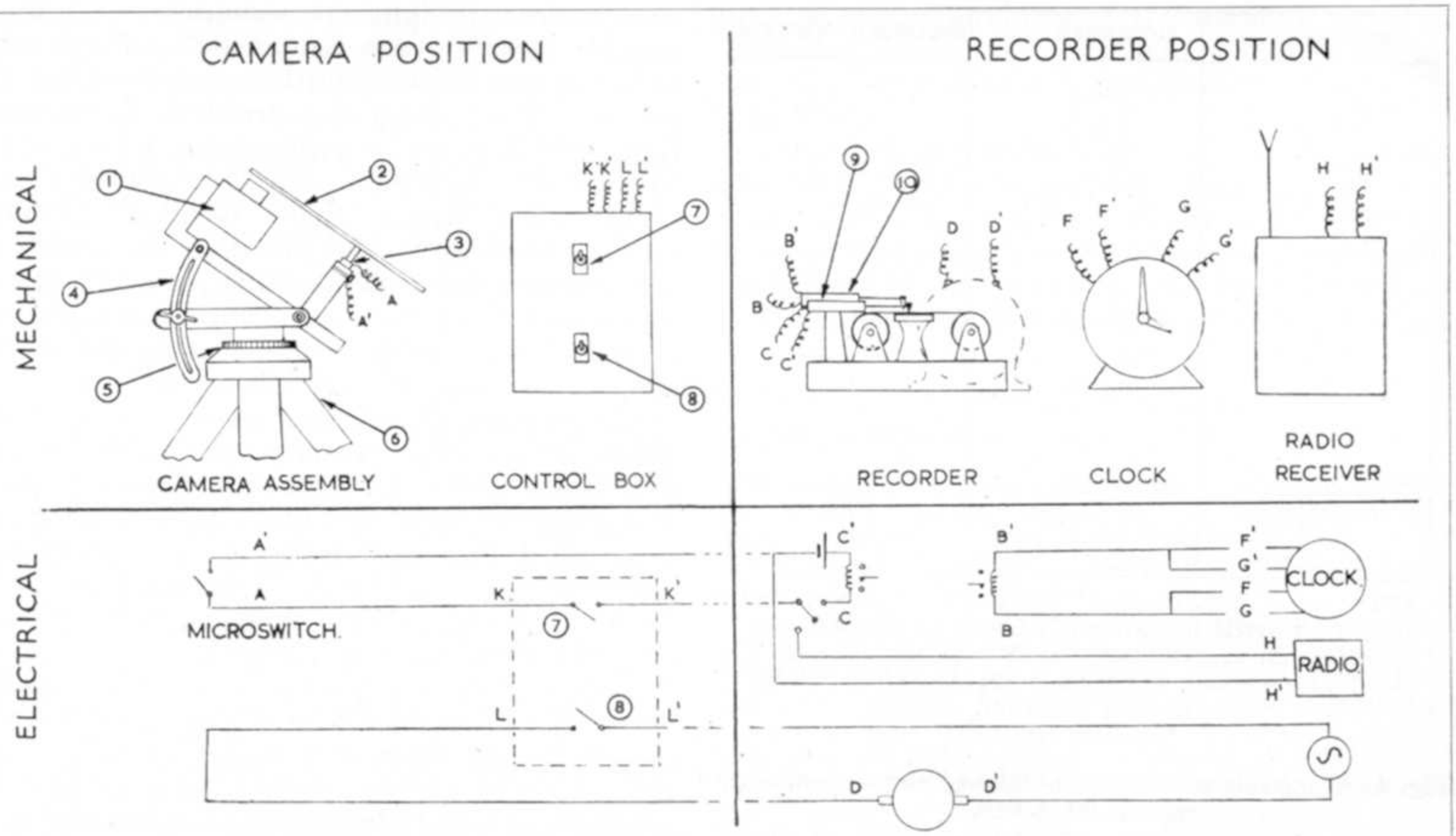
Applications to Ufology

(A) Confusion with UFOs

At the present time (July, 1961) something like 60 satellites and last rocket stages are in orbit around our globe. If the line of latitude of the northern apices of any of these lies north of, or near to, Great Britain it should be possible for them to be observed at certain times, although optical aids may be necessary. Their orbital direction will nearly always be from the west to east (to take advantage of the Earth's rotational velocity on launching). It can be seen that the situation already begins to look a little complicated, but since a large number of satellites are of fairly high magnitude there are not a great number which can be seen easily and the chance of seeing one without knowing where to look is small. In spite of this, there still exists this problem of identification and this is certain to become even more problematical as time passes. Two things can be done to overcome the possible confusion of " Genuine UFOs " and UFOs in the form of unidentified satellites:

(1) That one makes a positive effort to study the movement of satellites by the methods already mentioned; and thereby becomes familiar with their movements.

(2) That one, on observation of a UFO, takes careful note of time (within a minute or two and better if possible) and " fixes " it in direction by means of either the star background or some near fixed object, so that its elevation and azimuth can later be determined. Armed with this information it should be easy to find out from the D.S.I.R. if this object could be identified as a satellite.



KEY: (1) Camera; (2) Occulting Shutter; (3) Microswitch; (4) Camera/Shutter Mounting Plate; (5) Adjustable Elevation Azimuth Mounting; (6) Heavy Tripod; (7) Switch in Microswitch Circuit; (8) Switch Controlling Recorder (when operating from camera position); (9) Relay for Channel One of Recorder; (10) Relay for Channel Two of Recorder.

Fig. 3. A scheme for the automatic timing of satellite photographs by amateurs.

It should be mentioned that the confusion which satellites and balloons cause cannot be over-emphasised in the study of UFOs. In addition, the not unheard-of instances where the UFOs have been incorrectly described as satellites, balloons, birds, aircraft nose cones, the planet Venus and other mundane objects or less mundane mirages demand that every case be dealt with strictly on its merits; clearly none of the above objects can produce the type of physical effects which have occurred in numerous UFO sighting cases[8].

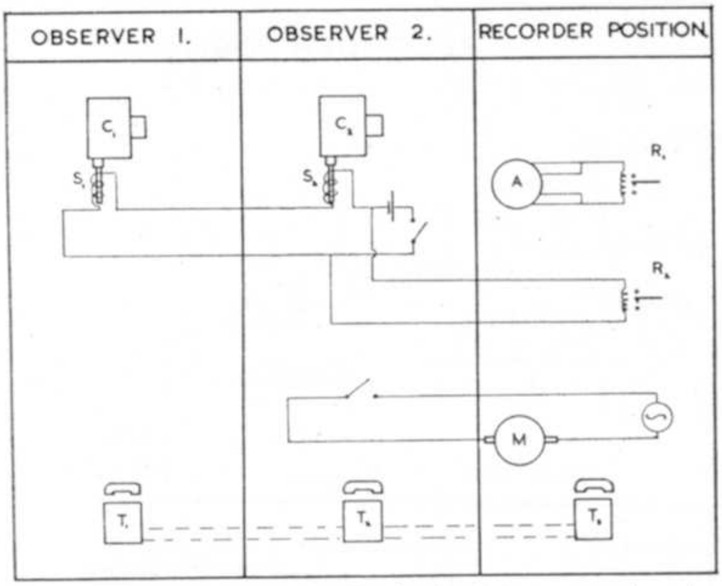
(B) Photography of UFOs

The whole of the literature concerning UFOs would probably receive a large boost in importance if a greater degree of reliability could be placed on some of the photographs. Although establishing the authenticity of a UFO photograph may in many cases be virtually impossible, at least some sort of appraisal of its possible "worth" may be made following the approach suggested by J. M. Adams[9]. In addition, if a greater number of photographs were available of an "inexplicable variety" the weight of evidence would tend to fall even more than at present on to the side of the UFO. If night photography were to be undertaken and good timing facilities were available (a stopwatch for example), one might obtain an accurate directional fix, and this could enable one to locate the object reasonably accurately providing there were other observers.

In *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, Aimé Michel points out that in so far as the sightings he has studied are concerned, the phenomena must have travelled at low altitude. This suggests that it would not be too difficult to set up facilities to obtain synchronised photographs at different locations and hence accurately to position the UFO. Such a system is diagrammatically represented in Fig. 4, showing how two photographs can be taken simultaneously at a distance and the time also recorded.

Field telephone is suggested as a helpful addition to the minimum facilities enabling observers to keep effective contact with one another.

Although these comments may appear to be rather hopeful in that they seem to suppose that observers will be continually available to "sky-watch" at points all over the country, there are factors which may eventually enable a realistic "sky-watch" to be established. These may be



KEY: (A) *'Sub-standard' clock giving second and minute electrical impulses; (C) Cameras; (S) Solenoids operating camera shutter; (R) *Relays for channels 1 and 2 of recorder; (T) Field Telephone; (M) *Motor Driving Recorder.
*See also Fig. 3.

Fig. 4. A possible scheme for obtaining photogrammetric records of UFOs.

considered to consist largely of prediction devices and improved communications between Ufologists.

Prediction devices, in the form of "magnetic detectors," I am told, have been successful in Scandinavia, while there seem to be indications that series of sightings sometimes follow one another closely over a few days; so if it is a case of being forewarned and forearmed we can then do something about the problem. Communications will improve as enthusiastic Ufologists get to know one another, and to this end the London Unidentified Flying Object Research Organisation are holding regular meetings in London and are studying the distribution of persons interested in UFOs with a view to setting up a rapid communication network by which people all over the country may be quickly alerted.

The success of any venture such as this often depends to a large extent on the efforts of a few individuals and even then only if enough people will patiently assist and willingly put some practical effort into the work can any progress be hoped for. It could be said, in fact, that successful UFO investigations depend on the efforts of everyone interested in the subject.

Exchange of information between Ufologists is essential to the sound development of the study of UFOs, and there is a long way to go before we can satisfactorily understand even the more common of UFO phenomena. But interest in the bizarre activities of flying saucers and other peculiar objects seen in our sky is increasing and the time may not be far distant when Ufology is a respected study, although we may be sure that full credence to many truthful reports will not come overnight.

APPENDICES

(I) *The Brightness of Satellites*

Broadly speaking, the apparent brightness of a satellite depends on its shape, size, surface finish, distances and rotational motion. Some early satellites were distant and were very small. As a result they were of high magnitude and could not be seen by the naked eye. For example, King-Hele[10] states that Vanguard I and its rocket would have stellar magnitudes of 8 and 5 respectively at 200 miles (about 1/250th and 1/16th as bright as the Pole star). Their distance, however, will be greater than 300 miles for several decades, so there is at present no hope of seeing them by the unaided eye.

Several satellites have protuberances and a non-uniform surface finish. These present a varying reflecting surface, so they fluctuate in brightness as they rotate, enabling the rate of rotation to be established. Another cause of brightness fluctuation which enables one to determine some geometrical detail occur in the case of the rotation of conical-shaped objects (such as rocket nose cones and Sputnik III) where two bright "flashes" occur on each rotation when light is reflected from the full length of the slant edge of the cone.

(II) *A note on the Limiting Brightness for Satellites that can be photographed.*

A useful formula[11] for the calculation of the approximate limiting magnitude for a Satellite which can be photographed on the fastest film (Royal Trix, HPS, etc.) is:

$$m = 2.5 \log_{10} \frac{5\,F}{2.N^2\ w\,d.}$$

Where m is the limiting magnitude
F is the focal length of the lens in m.m.
N is the "f-number" of the camera
d is the image diameter in m.m.
w is the angular speed of the Satellite in minutes of arc per second.

For a typical medium priced 35 m.m. camera photographing Echo where $w \simeq 10'/sec.$ we have

$F = 50$ m.m. $N = 2.8$ $d \simeq 0.04$ m.m.

Whence $m = 4$.

For a Kodak f/2.5 Aero Ektar lens box camera,

$F = 7x25.4$ m.m. $N = 2.5$ $d \simeq 0.04$ m.m.

Whence $m = 5.6$.

In the above examples d is rather a guess and will vary between cameras, however, in spite of this, the formula does enable one to obtain an idea of the capabilities of the method and it is clear that expensive equipment would be necessary to photograph faint satellites (say, magnitude 7 or 8).

The above-mentioned formula is of course invalidated if photographs be taken in low contrast conditions. For this reason one should try to avoid towns and keep well clear of street lights. Considerably better results can be expected on clear nights without a moon than on nights when the moon is above the horizon.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

[1] Satellites are seen solely by reflected light so they must be in sunlight in order to be visible. On occasions it is possible to see them fade into eclipse in the Earth's shadow. Comment on the effectiveness of satellites as reflectors is made in Appendix (I).

[2] Good examples are the Government surplus stock Elbow telescopes obtainable in the £5 range and covering between 5° and 8° of field.

[3] L. Carter: "Moonwatch in the U.K.," *Spaceflight* (Vol. III, No. 2, pp. 49—52).

[4] King-Hele: *Satellites and Scientific Research* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1960).

[5] Dr. M. J. Smyth: "Photographic Observations of Artificial Satellites," *Spaceflight* (Vol. I, No. 7, April, 1958, pp. 247-251).

[6] *Sky and Telescope* (Vol. XVIII, No. 2, December, 1958, p. 82).

[7] The British Interplanetary Society, 12, Bessborough Gardens, London, S.W.1. The B.I.S. have a register of active Moonwatch Observers.

D.S.I.R. Radio Research Station, Satellites Section, Ditton Park, Slough, Bucks. Receive observations and issue prediction sheets to active observers.

The British Astronomical Association, 303 Bath Road, Hounslow West, Middlesex.

[8] Anyone who has access to a good number of sighting reports can see that there is considerable evidence in UFO cases for such associated physical effects as: change in magnetic field intensity, reduction in current in electric circuits, the movement or removal of soil or foliage at the close approach or landing of a UFO, and in one case a temporary change in colouring of a ship's superstructure! It is difficult to hazard a guess at the means by which such effects can be produced although, without question, it would require very peculiar mirages or hallucinations to produce them.

[9] J. M. Adams: "The Presentation of Photographic Reports," FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (Vol. 7, No. 3, 1961).

[10] King-Hele: *Satellites and Scientific Research* (p. 49).

[11] Private communication from Dr. M. J. Smyth, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

In an attempt to contain the constantly rising costs of printing and distribution and to keep the subscription rates at their present level, our print order is being restricted to a figure as near as possible to that of the existing demand. This means that we shall not, in future, carry any large stocks of current or back numbers.

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CLAIMANTS, RIDICULE AND A PIECE OF CAKE

A PLEA FOR AN OPEN MIND

by WAVENEY GIRVAN

I MAKE no apology for returning to the subject of the contact claims. If I had to explain my persistence in this matter I would say that the whole future of our subject is bound up with them: sooner or later we shall have to take a balanced view about the claimants. At the moment, the reaction to them all seems to be more emotional than rational.

In the November-December, 1960, issue of the REVIEW, I invited readers to send in evidence of extra-terrestrials in our midst. Several readers responded and in my opinion (and this opinion was shared by many others) the most important contribution concerned that semi-legendary, though actually very real, character known as Springheel Jack[1]. It was important for a number of reasons. First, if further research could establish beyond doubt that this high-leaping ray-gunning mystery man could not have been of this earth, then we have the perfect answer to those who, while believing in flying saucers, will not openly admit that they contain, or have contained, pilots in human or in any other form.

Springheel Jack—assuming his extra-terrestrial origin—would also confound a number of other sceptics. For instance, his first recorded appearance was in England in 1837. Now, even Dr. Jung would have to admit that in the immediate post-Napoleonic era in England no calmer period in her history could be imagined. People were not looking to the skies for salvation. It was a period of economic difficulties, the sequel to a lengthy struggle for the balance of power in Europe. But in 1837 and onwards no threat of war, of sudden attack or even of shock clouded the skies for the English people. And yet they saw Springheel Jack. Furthermore, he came in no evangelist guise and those whom he confronted wished he hadn't. Another point in favour of the Springheel Jack story is that it is comparatively modern: it occurred in the times of our grandfathers and not in a remote past which is beyond our challenging. What is more, both heavier-than-air flight and saucers were unthought-of. The contemporary newspapers are there to be consulted and so are passing references to him in more than one Victorian novel. Wherever he came from, he certainly existed. I have a feeling that exhaustive research into this character could be one of the most rewarding branches of saucer studies. It is something of a tragedy, however, that those who are best equipped to investigate the mystery of the flying saucers will have nothing whatever to do with the contact stories. My remarks are prompted by the April-May issue of the *UFO Investigator,* issued by the American National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, of which Donald E. Keyhoe is Director.

The purpose of NICAP

It should be explained that the committee, known as NICAP for short, acts as a sort of pressure group directing its efforts primarily to the purpose of forcing the United States Air Force into an admission that the UFOs are interplanetary. NICAP maintains that the U.S. Air Force has on its files evidence that so far it has refused to release while maintaining publicly that all sightings can be explained away in conventional terms. Now, anyone who lectures on the subject of flying saucers, particularly to uncommitted members of the public, knows full well that even if he tries to dodge the question of the contact claimants (perhaps because his time is limited) he will find that at question time his audience wants one enquiry above all other satisfied: "Have any of the occupants been seen?" So if NICAP were to succeed in its aims and the

U.S. Air Force were to admit that saucers were inter-planetary, the question of the contact claims would immediately assume first importance. They could be dodged no longer. But why dodge them at all?

The answer to that last question is—fear of ridicule. Most pioneers in our study—Donald E. Keyhoe among them—faced ridicule in an acute form when they first wrote and spoke about flying saucers in the early years. Those who fear ridicule had better even now study something safer. It is, therefore, hard to believe that Major Keyhoe is really afraid of ridicule, and I would prefer to believe that his inhibition about contact claims is due to the method he has adopted in his attempt to break the story: the putting of pressure on a government department to reveal the truth. In this role he must remain respectable and "scientific." The contact claims are not respectable. It is therefore safer to ignore them, to destroy them, even, rather than to be associated with such disreputable heresies. Two unfortunate results follow. NICAP puts itself into the same position as the U.S. Air Force, which feels about sightings exactly what Major Keyhoe feels about contact claims. He cannot complain that the contact claims have attracted hoaxers and must therefore be ignored: the U.S. Air Force can make the same comment about some of the sightings. But what is sadder is that one of the most efficient investigative bodies in the world is perhaps throwing away its greatest chance of solving the whole saucer mystery. Respectability is very comfortable: a fearless and an open mind brings trials and tribulations, but it is more likely to triumph in the end.

A challenge

NICAP's attitude to contact claims is well illustrated in the April-May issue of its bulletin, to which I have already referred. Before I quote from it, I would like to make it clear that I am all for the exposing of fakes. In previous articles I have invited *proof* that this or that claimant was a liar: I issued an open invitation to Major Keyhoe himself to say what he liked about one very famous claim. The only reply came in an indirect form and consisted of a reiteration that the claim was known to be false. Well, if it is known to be false, why cannot a detailed exposure be made? Believing is not demonstration: an assertion that a man is a liar is not enough.

The *UFO Investigator* refers to three contact claims, but not directly. The first concerns Reinhold Schmidt, who in November, 1957, claimed that he had been invited aboard a flying saucer near Kearney, Nebraska. Well, he has just been jailed on charges of grand theft. Then there is Dr. Frank E. Stranges, who has been expelled from NICAP. I do not know what ceremony attends such an expulsion: is one drummed out as from a regiment or is one unfrocked like a vicar who has allowed his attentions to stray from strictly parochial matters? Dr. Stranges was a contact claimant but that is not the ostensible reason for his disgrace: he is cast into outer darkness for "misrepresentations of his relationship to NICAP." Dare one suggest that in future more careful scrutiny be made of new members at the moment of joining? Would a medical be advisable?

The Eagle River incident

The third case is the most interesting of the three and it concerns the Eagle River incident reported in the July-August issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. According to Joe Simonton, a flying saucer landed in his yard on April 18, and three spacemen gave him some pancakes in exchange for a jug of water. Well, this is all very circumstantial, but what is NICAP's comment? I quote: "In line with our policy, NICAP will evaluate this report for any real evidence of a contact. To date, no such claims have been proven: many are frauds or delusions. This sensational new story will be used by the AF [Air Force] for added ridicule of serious UFO reports. We urge our members to offset any such action by citing the massive documented evidence of UFO reality—and putting unproven contact stories in their proper light."

Poor Joe Simonton! But note how carefully NICAP has avoided calling him a liar. The smear is by inference only. Furthermore, if the report which was quoted in the local paper and reprinted in the July-August issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is correct, one of the three cakes was sent by a friend of Joe's to NICAP for investigation. Why isn't this fact mentioned? Is there no sub-committee competent to taste the cake and issue a report? "Scrumptious!" might have been one verdict: "Heavenly!" (perhaps nearer the mark) another. Joe himself said his cake tasted like cardboard (we know of cakes like this on earth, not at all like those that mother used to bake). But, seriously, would it not have been possible for NICAP to have examined the cake and told us all about it? Why couldn't Joe Simonton have been interviewed by juridical experts?—NICAP must surely have such people on its Board. And if they failed either to corroborate or to break his story, could it not have admitted.

just for once, that they didn't know the answer? After all, the Eagle River incident could be true: I have an idea that it is.

If all contact claims are thus to be dismissed, then the purpose for which NICAP was formed will be aborted—to the very grave loss to our subject and its students. Might we remind NICAP that those who fear ridicule most are often the first to attract it?

[1] See article "The Mystery of Springheel Jack," by J. Vyner, in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1961, issue.

WHY CONTACTS ARE SO FEW

The Space Administration Explains

IN our May-June issue there appeared an article "Danger from the Stars" which commented on a report from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the U.S.A. This report warned that unless we were prepared for the discovery that intelligent beings existed on other stars the shock that such a realisation would bring might be severe enough to cause a collapse of earth civilisation.

The Space Administration included a significant postscript to this warning. In its new report it devotes considerable attention to the possibility that spacemen might be visiting the earth but avoiding contact with us. "It is possible," the report maintains "that if the intelligence of these creatures were sufficiently superior to ours, they would choose to have little if any contact with us. On the face of it, there is no reason to believe that we might learn a great deal from them, especially if their physiology and psychology were substantially different from ours."

There is no doubt at all that the infrequency of the contacts (or the absence of any contacts at all, in the sceptics' view) is a very powerful reason why our subject is not more generally accepted. One possible reason for the lack of contact is referred to in the leading article in our previous issue: several others will no doubt occur to our readers. However, if it is held that visitors from other planets have been arriving here for hundreds and even thousands of years, it is necessary to answer the sceptics question: "Why don't they do more to convince us of their existence?" Also, if the purpose of the visitors is to survey the scenery of earth—and perhaps its geology as well—then the longer the period over which the survey has been conducted, the more pointless it appears. If the visitors wish to avoid meeting us, why do they want to come here at all? The Space Administration seems to have no answer to that question.

Sighting reports . . .

WORLD ROUND-UP has a high proportion of sightings over GREAT BRITAIN as a result of the remarkable series of visitations during the summer

. . . in this issue

The Loch Ness Monster

AN OLD FRIEND

THE Loch Ness Monster will need no introduction to students of flying saucers: it used to be dragged in by the sceptics as a sort of gigantic red herring to disprove the reality of the UFOs. The argument went something like this: "Eye-witnesses are totally unreliable. They say they have seen the Loch Ness Monster (which doesn't exist) and now they claim to have seen flying saucers. Therefore, flying saucers don't exist." It is, in fact, the logic that doesn't exist and, in any case, the premise is at fault. Who could say with finality that Loch Ness contained no strange animal? All the evidence pointed to the fact that there was such an animal (or could it be a machine?).

The latest of several publications about the elusive monster has just been published. It is by Tim Dinsdale and has been issued by Routledge (21s.). The book contains a still from the film taken by the author and shown on B.B.C. T.V. It showed a rhythmic splashing for'ard, which is strongly suggestive of powerful paddles in action.

The book was reviewed in the London *Observer* on May 28 and a very fair review it is. Its conclusion is worth quoting. Here is what it says: "If I am correct in believing that science has more to do with an attitude of mind than with a body of dogmas or even of knowledge, then I will go further and say that there is more hope for science in the enthusiastic amateurism of Dinsdale and their like than there is in the institutionalised professionalism, the petrified respectability, the abject deference to authority, the unreasoning fear of Press ridicule, the tender regard for tenderer reputations, and the yearnings toward the nomination lists at Burlington House which have kept zoologists well away from Loch Ness this last thirty years. There is no shame in honest investigation; there is, in the present context, more to commend in Mr. Dinsdale's errors than there is in all the zoological establishment's learning. I am sure that Bates and Belt, Gosse and Darwin and Wallace would have agreed with me, and I am quite positive that the founders of the Royal Society would have."

Brave words and true. And they were written by no mad heretic. The writer of the review from which we have quoted was Denys W. Tucker, D.Sc. The case against orthodox science could not have been better stated. And all Mr. Tucker's words apply equally well to the subject of UFOs.

The publicity given to our old friend produced a series of letters in the London *Daily Telegraph* on the subject of the Loch Ness and other monsters. Professor C. E. Carrington, Professor of Commonwealth Relations, on June 17 contributed a most interesting dissertation on the question of belief and disbelief. "When I look into my own mind," he wrote, "I observe a strong desire to believe in these monsters, however impossible, if I possibly could. On the other hand, I notice that some of my friends are equally inclined to disbelieve, and for them any kind of pseudo-rational explanation will serve. Why, they say, it's a floating log or a mass of decayed vegetation or a family of otters or anything that will evaporate the mystery and reduce it to dull matter-of-fact. All the positive accounts I have read from Loch Ness are weak by the rules of evidence, but the counter-blasts are much weaker. The explanations explain nothing. What we have here is a psychological problem. The believers and the unbelievers move along parallel lines which never meet. . . . The other group is that of professional zoologists who timidly keep their fingers out of the pie. How distressing it would be if there were some creature in the loch which they have been ignorant of. Why are they *not* interested? This, too, is a psychological problem. . . . I am not writing about Loch Ness, but about credulity. I might have written a similar letter about flying saucers or wolf-children or poltergeists."

We cannot be expected to pronounce any expert opinion on the Loch Ness Monster or, for that matter, on wolf-children or poltergeists. What we can say with confidence, however, is that the positive evidence in support of flying saucers is not weak and is infinitely stronger than that in favour of the Loch Ness Monster—and we mean no disrespect to our old sub-aqueous friend. With Professor Carrington's other remarks, however, we heartily agree, and we congratulate him on reaching the heart of the matter. If only the "experts" were not so timid we might the sooner be able to solve many of the unexplained mysteries which continue to tantalise mankind.

MYSTERY AT JODRELL BANK

STARTLING ADMISSIONS

OUR story begins with the news which appeared in the London *Sunday Times* on May 21 that the Jodrell Bank radio-telescope had received signals which might have come from the emergency transmitter carried in Russia's Venus probe. According to calculations, this probe had passed within 60,000 miles of the planet. The rocket was launched on February 12, but on March 2 Moscow announced that radio contact had been lost, possibly because the main radio equipment had been damaged by collision with a meteorite. The Jodrell Bank announcement caused widespread interest and the news was reported in the press in nearly every country in the world.

At the time of the announcement it is important to remember that Jodrell Bank scientists were positive that the signals had come from the right direction and on the right frequency. The reception was poor and the signals could not be positively identified, but Jodrell Bank must have been impressed that the sounds were coming from somewhere near Venus, for they recorded them on tape and sent a copy to Russia.

Russians impressed

When the Russians had listened to the tape-recording they, too, must have been impressed: while their experts could not, of course, decide where the signals were coming from, they must have considered that the "message" resembled the code used by the emergency transmitter. As a result, Professor Alla Masevich, the Russian woman astronomer, decided to accept Jodrell Bank's invitation to come to England and listen for herself.

On June 16, the London *Times* carried a detailed account of the results of this investigation: "The two Russian experts, Professor Alla Masevich, woman head of the space tracking network, and Dr. Khodarev, an authority on the Venus project, will return to Moscow by air from London on Saturday convinced that the rocket has been diverted from its course and is not answering to signals from the earth." In the attempts to pinpoint the signals, Jodrell Bank co-operated with scientists in Russia who were trying to contact the Venus probe by means of ground commands.

The *Times* report then quotes Professor Masevich's explanations as to why the rocket may have been diverted from its course. During the course of a press conference, the following highly important announcement was made. The *Times* continues: *

"The transmitter in the rocket had been set to send signals for 90 minutes at five-day intervals, Professor Masevich explained. These would consist of 17 minutes of unmodulated signals followed by 17 minutes of coded messages passing scientific information. The only signals picked up at Jodrell Bank which bore any resemblance to the Russian code were found to be of local emission, possibly the work of a radio 'ham' in the area whose signals were picked up when the telescope was leaned over to its farthest angle towards the horizon. Professor Masevich did not completely discount a theory that some radio signals may have been emitted from Venus itself."

After reading this account in the *Times* the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW telephoned the Public Relations Officer at Jodrell Bank, *but without disclosing his connection with the magazine*. The first question that the Editor put evoked the reply that there was no doubt that the messages were man-made (i.e., they were not due to natural causes). The next question produced an assurance that the word "local" meant local to the area of Jodrell Bank (i.e., not just from somewhere on this earth, but from a source in the Manchester area). The third comment produced a surprising reply. The Editor then asked: "As you are certain that these signals were 'man-made,' then would you agree that Professor Masevich admits the possibility that the signals could have represented intelligent messages from Venus?" There was a significant pause before the reply was given. The Public Relations Officer agreed that the "logic was impeccable." He then added that the English scientists had been startled by Professor Masevich's statement. In response to a further enquiry as to whether the English scientists also admitted this possibility, the Public Relations Officer stated that before committing himself he would have to consult with Sir Bernard Lovell, Director of the station. The reason for his hesitancy was that "they did

* The italics are ours.—Editor.

not want to be connected with flying saucers." This last reply was perhaps the most significant statement of all, for it should be emphasised that the Editor had been most careful to avoid all reference to this heretical subject. The anxiety not to be connected with flying saucers may well have explained why the English scientists were "startled" when Professor Masevich, so incautiously from their point of view, allowed for the possibility that these intelligent messages "may have been emitted from Venus itself."

After the Public Relations Officer had been able to consult Sir Bernard Lovell (presumably as to what to say next), he then tried to escape from what he had earlier referred to as the Editor's "impeccable logic." They were no longer certain that the signals were "a local emission." They could have come from practically anywhere and not necessarily from the neighbourhood of Manchester. The signals were now held to be "unidentified." When asked what Professor Masevich had meant by her remarks, these were brushed off as "a jocular aside" on her part, a point which the Public Relations Officer had failed to make before. A great deal of double-talk then followed: the Editor was left in doubt whether in fact the messages were coming from outer space or from Chorlton-cum-Hardy. Furthermore, doubt was now cast on their being man-made, or intelligent; they might have been due to natural causes.

The whole episode raises a number of interesting points. The equipment at Jodrell Bank is among the most efficient and expensive in the world. It was built as a means of enlarging our knowledge of the universe and, in particular, that of distant stars. Professor Masevich and her colleague travelled all the way from Moscow to listen to signals which might well have come from the missing Venus probe. Even when she failed to identify them as such she still quite obviously accepted the fact that they were coming from the neighbourhood of Venus. Are we really expected to believe that before, during or after her visit there could have been any suggestion that the emissions were "local"? If they were local, their source could surely have been pinpointed by equipment less elaborate than that in use at Jodrell Bank. (The Post Office could have tracked the transmitter in a matter of a few hours.) If a radio "ham" had been responsible for the messages, Professor Masevich might really have wondered whether her journey all the way from Moscow had been really necessary. But she seems to have been perfectly happy and still fairly free with her "jocular asides," a welcome change of attitude, by the way, from the usual frigid manner of most visiting Russian officials.

Then there is the attitude of the pundits at Jodrell Bank. They must live in constant fear of being associated with flying saucers. Rather than risk this fate, they prefer to talk nonsense and to double back on what they have said before. It is not that anybody wants them to become flying saucer enthusiasts. It will satisfy us if they just admit for once that they don't know everything. Then we might be able to solve mysteries instead of pretending that they don't exist.

TACKER POSTED

Anti-saucer author sent to Germany

LT.-COL. LAWRENCE J. TACKER, author of *Flying Saucers and the U.S. Air Force,* which is reviewed in this issue and was referred to in the leading article in our May-June issue, is being replaced as the official UFO spokesman by Maj. William Coleman.

According to the *UFO Investigator* for April-May, Tacker's removal has been caused by the mis-firing of his campaign against the saucers. Apparently, his statements on the air and elsewhere have been widely condemned as "rude . . . overbearing . . . determined to keep the public from knowing the truth about UFOs . . ."

Whether the replacement of Tacker by Coleman indicates a change of heart on the subject of UFOs remains to be seen. It is, of course, possible that Maj. William Coleman will merely prove to be more tactful and persuasive than Lt.-Col. Lawrence J. Tacker in his demolition work on the saucers. It must be admitted that Tacker's book was full of inaccuracies and omissions and its appeal must have been restricted solely to those who wanted reassuring that there were no such animals as flying saucers. Furthermore, it is possible that the crudity of the methods employed to ridicule the subject and those who support the saucers brought its own retribution: it would not be the first time that a lack of subtlety in attack had destroyed the purpose of an operation.

A BRAZILIAN CONTACT CLAIM

Professor Guimaraes's strange story

Our attitude to the contact claims has always been that to reject them all uncritically merely because some have been considered unsatisfactory is philosophically unsound. We further believe that insufficient investigation has been devoted to this aspect of the flying saucer mystery and that thorough and open-minded research would seem to offer us the greatest chance of reaching the final solution. These contact stories have persisted now for a number of years in spite of general ridicule and even the hostility of certain prominent UFOlogists.

The following account is translated from the Portuguese and first appeared in Bulletin No. 4, dated July 1, 1958, of *Discos Voadores* issued by Dr. W. Buhler in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

WE give below a transcript of the account by Professor Joao de Freitas Guimaraes of his voyage in a flying saucer, related in an interview on T.V.-13 on the evening of August 27, 1957.

Professor Joao de Freitas Guimaraes recalled that he had gone to Sao Sebastiao in the course of his professional duties as a military advocate. Finding the law court already closed, he had dinner and then, by way of a constitutional, went for a walk along the beach. He cannot be exact as to the time, not having chanced to look at his watch, but estimates that it would be 7.10 or 7.15 p.m.

The sky was overcast, dull, and there was no moon. In the absence of any bench, he sat down on the shore, rested his hands on his knees and remained gazing over the sea, which was quite dark. Suddenly he perceived that it was becoming clearer over the water, in the stretch between Bela island and Sao Sebastiao. Next, a jet of water arose, like a waterspout, which caused the thought of a whale to cross his mind. Shortly afterwards he made out that it was a pot-bellied machine moving in the direction of the beach. Arrived there, it threw out a landing line, equipped with spheres. He noticed particularly that they were spheres, not buoys. From this machine two men then jumped out and walked to meet him. They were two human beings or, at least, they had that appearance. He confesses that he was somewhat alarmed. He got to his feet and, although feeling a certain amount of apprehension, was not inclined to take to flight.

He could now definitely tell that he had to deal with tall individuals (more than 5 ft. 10 in.), with long, fair hair, of clear complexion and with eyebrows. They wore a kind of one-piece garment, green in colour, narrowing towards the neck, wrists and ankles. Their eyes were clear and steady.

No reactions

The professor asked them whether there had been an accident to the machine or were they seeking someone. He got no reply. Then he tried speaking to them in French, English and Italian, but still without result, at the time.

He got the impression that he was invited to enter the craft. He cannot explain how it was that he came to this conclusion, but the fact is that so he understood. It seemed to him that they were employing a telepathic language. He added that he is not a scientist, that he has not studied matters of this kind but, from what knowledge he has in that respect, he is led to believe that they were utilising such means of communication; although he verified, later, that they were endowed with articulate speech.

He had never interested himself in the question of flying saucers. Through lack of time, he was almost entirely ignorant of this question. However, it appeared to him that that machine was one of those strange airships. Feeling that the invitation persisted, there came to him, then,

an irresistible desire to know what was inside.

Then, one of the crew started in the direction of the machine, turning his back on him. Dr. Freitas Guimaraes followed, without reluctance, accompanied by the other member of the crew. He was thus between the two of them. The one in front reached the lower part of the aircraft and got on board, holding on to a ladder with only one hand. Dr. Freitas Guimaraes required the assistance of both his hands.

Dr. Guimaraes could see that in the hatch there was another airman, who had remained there all the time. When the second airman, walking behind our informant, got on board, the apparatus which had been let down was drawn in again and the door closed. The Professor said that he had remained in the one compartment but was able to ascertain that there were others, also illuminated.

Telepathic communications

When the machine rose, he noted that there was water on the portholes, as though it were raining. He enquired, "Is it raining?" To this he received a reply, telepathically, from one of the crew, to the effect that it was not a question of rain. That water originated from the rotation, in opposite direction, of parts comprised in the saucer. All round the machine there was a ray filtration tube, which produced the effect of a semi-vacuum in each of its parts.

He saw, through the portholes, above the earth, an intensely dark zone where stars shone in an extraordinary manner. This was succeeded by incomparable splendour, and then by fresh dark areas. Continuing, they crossed a violet layer, then another one, vivid and dazzling. In the former he felt the machine toss violently. He displayed a little nervousness, on this account. Then one of the crew said to him, telepathically, "The machine has just left the atmosphere of your planet."

During the trip, he asked them from where they came, but got no reply. He does not know why they did not wish to be identified. When he knew that they were already beyond the earth's atmosphere, he was astonished and frightened. He had noticed, on entering the compartment, a circular instrument on which moved three needles, very sensitive and already quivering. At the point of departure from the earth's atmosphere these needles commenced to vibrate intensely. Later it was explained to him by one of the crew that the machine was navigated by registration of the conjunction of magnetic forces in the area. The blazing space bodies, diversely coloured, and the swiftly flying iridescent clouds together constituted an indescribable spectacle.

On returning, he observed that his watch had stopped. He could not, therefore, be sure how long the flight lasted, but estimates it at 30 or 40 minutes. He went to his hotel and felt inclined to tell everyone of his extraordinary experience.

It seemed to him that the crews of those airships were carrying out an investigation upon the inhabitants of our planet. He had the impression that they were desirous of instructing us as to the dangers which threaten humanity. In the opinion of Professor Freitas Guimaraes, human behaviour is almost savage. Man would be born wholly good, but, as a result of conditions inherent upon earth, he degenerates. There are some scientific experiments which are being conducted without due care. The indiscriminate use of the atomic bomb scarcely increases the ionisation of the earth. It does, however, cause the destruction of layers of the atmosphere which filter dangerous rays. If more care is not taken in the use of those terrible devices, we shall all suffer the consequences of such explosions.

Events since

Again, the professor states that this occurrence took place about 14 months ago and that, with the exception of his wife, he had told no one of it. About six months afterwards, however, he spoke on the subject to a judge in Sao Paulo, Dr. Alberto Franco. He also told an old advocate in that capital, Dr. Nilson. During a luncheon which took place at the Advocates' Association, he saw an aluminium saucepan and made a jest about it, alluding to flying saucers. His colleagues suspected then that he must know something about these airships, so much talk had been current. Later, however, he narrated the incident to a friend, Dr. Lincoln Feliciano. This latter, naturally, seizing upon the story, transmitted it to the person who wrote the article which has caused so much sensation. He adds that, since that time, he has had no peace. He has been beseiged by every manner of means. Although all who approach him may be very friendly, it is becoming, nevertheless, difficult for him to explain exactly what transpired. For example,

imagine someone, who, during a strange journey, had seen, for the first time, a pneumatic machine and had wished, on his return, to describe it to people who were interested but had no knowledge of it. It is clear that he would not be able to do so accurately. The facts he witnessed passed his comprehension.

He declared, subsequently, that he had not been the first citizen of this world to travel in those machines. He informs us that, since his adventure has been divulged by the press, a list of works upon the subject has been received, in some of which are detailed experiences similar to those he underwent.

Questioned as to whether he felt ill during the trip, he replied that he had felt none too well when the saucer took off and when it landed. He felt pain and cold in his extremities. He attributed that to a natural nervous tension.

He declares that a further meeting with the crew of the machine had been arranged for August that year: August 12, 1957. Asked about the way in which that meeting had been defined, it transpired that, in the course of the voyage, the crew showed him 12 constellations, disposed in the form of the Zodiac. A wheel indicated the year and repetition, a dozen times, of the number 8 conveyed to him the month of August. Thus he interpreted it as being the date in question. To enquiries as to what had prevented him from keeping the appointment made, he replied that he would not have been able to go. A party had been organised to attend the interview, which would have caused a sensation. He had, moreover, in the meantime, lost near relations. Besides, he had been approached by an official of the F.A.B., who asked him not to go for this meeting. He referred, also, to the fact that the Air Force had sent pursuit planes (jets), which could be the cause of serious incidents. If one of these aircraft came into contact with the saucer, that could seem like an act of treachery on his part. It would be considered a breach of faith if he were to contribute towards creating an unwelcome situation for those beings who were so considerate to him. He confesses to more prudence than curiosity.

A WAR OF THE WORLDS?

THE leading article in our July-August issue attracted a great deal of comment, some of which appears in the Mail Bag feature in this issue. One or two of our readers seem to have taken our remarks as implying that the flying saucers were considered hostile. Our comments, however, were directed to an examination of a theory put forward that our visitors are, in fact, indifferent to us and we tried to relate this hypothesis to the known facts as disclosed by Aimé Michel and Dr. Fontes. We would like to make it clear that while there seems to be plenty of evidence that the saucers are more interested in our planet than in ourselves, we specifically stated that " there has been no evidence, as far as we can recall, that there have been any deliberate attacks upon the inhabitants of the earth."

Orbit, the journal of the Tyneside UFO Society, in commenting on our leader, makes the remark that if the saucers are made out to be hostile then the " silence group " (whatever that consists of) would find it easy to use this reason in order to tighten the censorship. The reverse is the truth. If the saucers had proved hostile to our persons then there would have been such a public clamour that the authorities would have been obliged to take them more seriously and to make some sort of public statement. We have recently received confirmation of this point, for one of our readers telephoned the Air Ministry last June to complain of the absurd explanations being given to write off the visitations that were being reported over England this summer. Finally, the Air Ministry spokesman was forced into a corner and, when questioned about a possible danger to our security, replied that the objects " were perfectly harmless."

If our readers wish to constitute themeselves as a pressure group, then the only weapon they have against the authorities is to complain to them that the UFOs are guilty of trespass, at least, and that is considered on this earth as a form of unfriendliness in itself as the U2 incident last year so convincingly proved. It can be argued that the Air Ministry's " explanations " are handed out so glibly in an attempt to allay the public's uneasiness that we are perhaps being overflown by Russian secret weapons. When another incident occurs our readers may care to telephone the Air Ministry themselves and we feel certain that they will receive a much more interesting answer if they pretend that the saucers might be secret weapons than if they indicate that they are piloted by missionaries anxious for our welfare. We consider that the reply given to our reader was one of the most significant indications of the official attitude we have received to date.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE CONQUEST OF SPACE by Albert Ducrocq (Putnam, 30s.).

This book by the originator of the cybernetic automaton, a scientist familiar with the space programmes of America and Russia, combines the masterly lucidity and perspicacity of the French mind with a command of the English language (we must also praise the translator). This combination enables the ordinary reader to understand the various stages in space exploration and awakens his keen interest in this progress.

"October, 1957: For the first time a man-made machine overrides the age-old law which proclaims that everything that goes up must come down. Fifteen months later: A means is developed for circumventing the Earth's attraction. September, 1959: the Moon is reached. . . ." Thus, the book's opening paragraph introduces us to the problems and their solution. We discover what each vehicle, Russian or American, was developed to do and how success, immediate or eventual, led on to the next step; how the Americans, limited by the thrust of their rockets, aimed at progressive discovery while the Russians, better powered, went for achievement. In October, 1958, public statements by Sedov and Blagonravov "gave the essential information about the Russian astronautical programme, indicating the Soviet scientists were undertaking all the preparatory work needed for, on the one hand, the launching of inhabited satellites and, on the other, the sending out of flying laboratories around the Moon, Venus and Mars" (p.163).

As these words are being written, Yuri Gagarin is seeing London for the first time (his orbit not having taken him over the British Isles) but, although of necessity it stops just short of Gagarin's epoch-making orbit on April 12, 1961, let no one think Ducrocq's book is not up-to-date; indeed, it is essential to have read it if one is to understand what has happened and what is to come. Having done so, one realises that each launching is not just another satellite, but has a specific purpose, and, by following the news, is should be possible to guess at the experiments undertaken even before they are announced.

Starting from the level of knowledge of the man in the street, M. Ducrocq describes astronautic aims and achievements, the exploration of the atmosphere and, looking from above, satellites as world surveyors; he explains the method of sending messages from space vehicles and how, thereby, the earth's radiation belts were discovered; he shows how the stabilisation of space vehicles was the key to progress, how recuperation techniques were worked out and what had to be done before a rocket could be sent to the moon, a man put in space. Finally, M. Ducrocq penetrates the near future, describing Lunik II and automatic guidance, the mysteries of planetary ballistics and voyages towards Venus and Mars.

Lest the reader be over-awed by such a list of the contents of this book, the following quotations will convey something of its basic simplicity and profundity.

"Ellipse, parabola, hyperbola are three curves that the mathematician speaks of as conic, and for a long time, mathematicians have known that they correspond to all the possible ballistic trajectories in space. The local trajectories of the heavenly bodies and of all meteorites in the universe which are subjected to the influence of a centre of attraction must be conic. But until today such considerations were purely theoretical, the supreme achievement of astronautics being that it has promoted this kind of celestial mechanics to the rank of applied science.

"This notion of conic paths is destined to enter deeply into the consciousness of space-man just as the notion of the straight line dominated earth-man's activities. On Earth the straight line was considered to be the logical course and the aim was always to find a direct path—the 'straight route'. In space, on the contrary, the fundamental line is derived from the cone and its related geometrical properties." (p.177).

"But in space, worlds are in relative movement one to another, and these movements are relatively swift. So in no case can a trajectory in space be defined, all trajectories of interplanetary journeys being a function of both space and time. An interplanetary voyage must in the first place be conceived in four dimensional space, and this entirely new notion brings to each and everyone what amounts to a new mode of thought. It is a revelation even more important than those of former times when man, after having believed that the world was flat, came to know that it was round and that it was isolated in space." (p.185).

Dates of historic significance are given. On February 10, 1958, a radar echo was obtained from Venus, "the year 1958 witnessing the revolutionary achievement of absolute measurement in the field of astronomy by means of radar" (p.326). "On January 2, 1959, a vehicle escaped for the first time from the Earth's attraction" (p.180): this was Lunik I, later called Meichtcha when it took up its orbit in the solar system. Lunik II, which hit the Moon on September 12, 1959, was the first vehicle to introduce spatial

guidance; information, transmitted up to the moment of impact, indicated that the Moon has no magnetic field.

"A launching towards Venus with an economic trajectory is possible 87 days before each conjunction" (p.243). An exceptionally favourable conjunction took place in September, 1959, but neither the Americans nor the Russians were ready to take advantage of it. Conjunctions with Venus take place every year and seven months and the next, in April, 1961, saw a Russian vehicle speeding towards Venus, its transmitter gone silent; we may expect more fruitful attempts in the early Autumn of 1962 for the November conjunction.

Although it is not stated in the book, we realise that it is possible for astronomers to work out favourable times for launchings from our neighbouring planets towards Earth. We think that, if this were done and the results compared with periods of the greatest frequency of flying saucer sightings, it would provide circumstantial evidence of the planet or planets of origin of the visiting space craft. But the author does not speculate upon "space travel in reverse."

It is impossible to read this scientific book without being aware of its human implications. The decision in May, 1961, by the United States to compete with Russia in the conquest of space and, at unprecendented cost, to get a man to the moon and back before the end of this decade; the reception given by the Queen and people of Britain to Yuri Gagarin and the simple words of the Minister for Air that, while we would have liked to welcome a British space hero, this is above politics. These are signs of hope for humanity.

It is as though, in the darkened rooms of Earth, the curtains are being drawn back from windows looking out upon the universe; one after another, a window is flung open and those within gaze with joy upon the beauties of nature spread over the field of view. Soon, the children will go out to play and the old folk sit at the doorstep, in the sun. There is no lack of space, but is is good and companionable to be near one another; how different it used to seem to the nations as they elbowed one another, before the windows were opened.

WE WANT YOU by Michael X; Futura Press, P.O. Box 38594, Los Angeles 38, California, U.S.A., $2.00).

Here is drama on a vast and confusing scale for those who like to feel that big happenings are afoot, involving the prophecies of Nostradamus, the escape of Hitler to Patagonia and a mystery man named Michalek (no connection with the author). Karl Michalek is said to have begun in 1958 to write articles from Santiago in Chile for the newspaper *Neues Europa* published by Louis Emrich in Germany, announcing that he was in contact with the Government of Venus and, having been chosen by them to be president of the coming world republic on earth, he delivered an ultimatum to Kruschev on March 12, 1960, and predicted a landing by the Venus Fleet on April 21, 1961.

Flying saucers are made in Patagonia, especially those with German-speaking crews, as well as on Venus; but no connection is apparent between the two kinds. In fact, this is the case with nearly every statement in the booklet.

Hitler's escape to the Argentine was made by submarine and his plans for world conquest are being organised by Martin Bormann: we are advised to read an article by George McGrath in the *Police Gazette* for December, 1960. However, plans for flying saucer construction were taken along and, in support, we are shown a drawing of an experimental copper model designed by V. Schauberger and built in Vienna by the Kertl Co. in 1940, as described by Egerton Sykes in the June, 1957, issue of *Uranus*.

What puzzles us is how sensation-seeking imagination can be earthbound to the extent of preferring to speculate about Patagonian-produced flying saucers (indiscreetly appearing in advance of Der Tag) rather than on the origin an nature of the interplanetary kind. Perhaps the latter, being beyond the scope of the author's imagination, do not offer suitable material for the sensational treatment he aims to provide.

—*Our Reception Committee.*

BOOKS ON FLYING SAUCERS

While we try to help all our readers with their enquiries concerning books, we would like to remind them that we are not booksellers. It will obviate delay, therefore, if orders and remittances for books are sent direct to a bookseller and we recommend the John M. Watkins Bookshop in London and Allen's Book Shelf in Fontana, California. These booksellers are regular advertisers in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and their addresses will be found in the current issue.

PERSONAL COLUMN

5s. for 3 lines and 5s. for each additional line

URGENTLY WANTED. Copy of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Vol. 3, No. 5 (1957, September-October issue). Offers to V. D. Oliver, 82 Moran St., Boulder, W. Australia.

LUFORO Brains Trust—Experts will answer your questions—Caxton Hall, Westminster: September 23, 7.30 p.m. Admission 2s. 6d. October 14: Lecture by J. Dale.

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN gives ufological and Fortean informations from Europe—$1 for four issues. Write to P.O. Box 1524, Amsterdam, Holland.

FATHER GILL AND THE REV. LIONEL BROWNING

What the Officials had to say

OUR readers will not need reminding that the sightings over Papua in 1959 and Tasmania in 1960 were among the most significant and trustworthy of recent years. In our May-June issue we issued a challenge to Squadron Leader F. A. Lang, of the Royal Australian Air Force at Canberra, to justify his statement in a letter to Dr. Finch that the objects sighted by Father Gill were not manned vehicles "from this or any other planet." To date we have received no reply, but the following correspondence sent to us by Mr. P. E. Norris, Hon. President of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society of Melbourne, should prove of great interest to those of our readers who like to note how the authorities all over the world react to sightings which cannot be simply explained away in terms of "balloons," "meteorites" and other conventional objects.

The first letter printed below is from Mr. Norris to the Editor and explains the background very lucidly. We should explain that the phrase "mother ship" as used by Father Gill did not refer to a cigar-shaped object but to the largest and nearest of the circular objects which he saw. In this instance, therefore, it is important that readers should bear in mind that the "mother ship" is in fact the object on which the four human beings were observed. It is this object that Squadron Leader Lang avoids mentioning.

100 Collins Street,
Melbourne,
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.
June 23, 1961.

The Editor,
"Flying Saucer Review",
1 Doughty Street,
LONDON, W.C.1, ENGLAND.

Dear Sir,

I read with interest your article in the May-June issue concerning Rev. Gill's sighting and the R.A.A.F. evaluation thereof. I enclose correspondence received from the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence which you may care to compare with that received by Dr. Finch.

The evaluation can be better understood if it is remembered that Rev. Gill actually sighted simultaneously two types of U.F.O.'s - a large "mother ship" with distinct features and manned by four apparently human beings, and several small comparatively indistinct discs which stayed at all times at a comparatively great distance from the observers. When Squadron-Leader Lang concludes in his evaluation that "at least three of the lights were planets", he is referring to the discs. At no time does he expressly refer to the "mother ship" - an agile evasion which is not readily discernible at first reading. In fact, had Rev. Gill and his party sighted only the discs, the R.A.A.F. evaluation would be practically unassailable. The nature of the "mother ship" therefore remains officially unexplained.

The ratiocinations of the authorities are even more extraordinary during their investigations into the series of Tasmanian sightings highlighted in October, 1960, by the Rev. Lionel Browning's report of a "mother ship" and several attendant discs. In a letter dated November 15, 1960 (original on V.F.S.R.S. files) the Minister for Air, Mr. F. M. Osborne, in effect admitted that his Department had been unable to adduce any natural explanation for Mr. Browning's sighting. But this did not deter Squadron-Leader Lang and his colleagues in Intelligence from analysing the Cressy U.F.O.s as "scud type clouds moving in varying directions due to turbulence". Mystery deepened when a thirty-five-year old Cressy woman, Mrs. Webster, and her eleven-year old daughter, Sally, sighted a "mother ship" apparently identical to that of Mr. Browning. They told V.F.S.R.S. investigators that R.A.A.F. officials had requested them not to repeat details of their sighting to members of the public.

I have enclosed copies of the official letters above referred to for your file.

I believe I may also be able to answer Mrs. L. Pugh's question stated in her letter to the Editor, concerning Rev. Browning's reported speculation as to whether the U.F.O.s are of Russian origin. The first report of his sighting appearing in the Melbourne papers bore the unfortunate headline: "Cleric, wife: 'We saw space-ship.'" Neither Mr. or Mrs. Browning at any time said anything of the sort. Realising that the value of his report would be seriously depreciated by the mis-quote, Rev. Browning quite rightly attempted to compensate it by being perhaps unduly sceptical in his later press utterances.

Having had several meetings with Rev.

Browning following his initial press statement, I can assure Mrs. Pugh that, whilst he remains highly objective in his approach to the subject, Mr. Browning does not seriously entertain the notion that U.F.O.s are Russian secret weapons.

Yours faithfully,
(P. E. NORRIS, LL.B.),
Hon. President.

From: Squadron-Leader F. A. Lang.
Royal Australian Air Force,
Directorate of Air Force Intelligence,
Department of Air,
Administrative Building,
CANBERRA. ACT.
554/1/30 (5M) February 22, 1960.
Mr. P. E. Norris,
Honorary President,
Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,
100 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE.
Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 25th January, 1960. An officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend W. Gill's report of U.F.O. activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to appropriate authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201(AAA) dated 14th February, 1957, such reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the phenomena observed by the Reverend Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers and the unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movements.

Yours faithfully,
(F. S. Lang).

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Minister for Air,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.
November 15, 1960.

Dear Mr. Duthie,

I have received your letter of 9th November about the sighting of aerial lights reported by the Rev. Lionel Browning of Cressy, Tasmania.

My department does not interview everyone who claims to have seen unidentified flying object or unexplained lights in the sky. It accepts reports from any appropriate source of such sightings and assesses them for reliability. Those reports which appear to justify further examination are then subjected to another investigation in which the meteorological services, the civil aviation authorities and the Government Astronomer are asked to offer suggestions to see whether they can be explained. If no natural explanation is given, a more detailed investigation is then carried out during which the persons who reported the sightings may be interviewed by Air Force officers.

In the present case my department has received a written report from the Department of Civil Aviation in Tasmania concerning Mr. Browning's experiences and as a result, Wing Commander G. Waller, the Resident Air Force Officer in Tasmania has been instructed to interview Mr. Browning and others.

The Flying Saucer Research Societies of Victoria and South Australia have asked for access to my department's files on several occasions, but I am not prepared to make such official documents available. My department will, however, examine and evaluate any information which these Societies may care to submit.

Yours sincerely,
(F. M. Osborne).

G. W. A. Duthie, Esq., M.P.,
The Opposition Whip,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Directorate of Air Force Intelligence,
Department of Air,
Canberra, A.C.T.
March 7, 1961

Telegraphic Address:
"Airforce Canberra"
In Reply Quote 554/1/30
Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 24th February, 1961, the findings of our investigation are as follows:

"The Phenomena was (sic) the result of the moon rise associated with meteorological conditions at the time of the sighting. On 4th October, 1960, moon rise (full quarter) at Cressy would have been visible shortly after 1800 hours and in an ESE direction. The objects apprently seen were near the sky-line in an easterly direction. The presence of 'scud' type clouds, moving in varying directions due to turbulence in and around the rain squal near which the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects."

Yours faithfully,
(H. Syme).

Mr. P. E. Norris, LL.B.,
Hon. President,
Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,
Box 32,
TOORAK, VICTORIA.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
Directorate of Air Force Intelligence,
Department of Air,
Administrative Building,
CANBERRA. ACT.
554/1/30 November 26, 1959.

Thank you for your letter dated 16th

March, 1959, enclosing Father Gill's sighting reports. We have initiated enquiries into Father Gill's claims, but it is too early to have reached any conclusions.

Reports of this type are continuously filed in an attempt to develop sufficient depth of evidence for accurate analysis to be made. It may, however, be some time before the required depth of evidence is available.

(H. B. Syme).

Mr. P. E. Norris,
100 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE. VIC.

After having read this correspondence carefully, we can say that we do not believe in the explanations put forward by those in authority. Furthermore, we do not believe that those in authority believe in their own explanations.

LIGHTS OVER HERTFORDSHIRE

Witnesses Alarmed

READERS of our World Round Up feature in this issue will notice that activity of UFOs over Great Britain seems to have reached a peak during the summer. An attempt to plot the sightings on a map revealed that the incidents were so numerous—hardly any region seems to have been missed—that the visitations resembled more a demonstration than a planned survey. It has led to the speculation that the attempt by Jodrell Bank to get into touch with the Russian Venus probe may have been misinterpreted as an attempt at a contact on our part and caused this demonstration. We did not have space to include all the incidents, but the following deserves special consideration as it contains a number of unusual features and was very well attested. In addition, the "explain-it-all-away" brigade had to admit defeat.

Two witnesses

"Another unidentifiable object has been spotted over East Hertfordshire—an object which, because of its relatively low height, this time alarmed the two people who witnessed and reported its appearance." This was the beginning of the lengthy account written by Peter Lee in the *Hertfordshire Mercury* on July 7. The incidents occurred on June 30. The witnesses were eighteen-year-old Peter Wilkinson, of 147 Old Highway, Heddesdon, and his girl friend, Josephine Steele, of 11 Hoddesdon Road, St. Margarets. They had been watching the sun set and were sitting on a park bench. Then Peter looked up and suddenly saw two lights in the heavens set together as would be two car headlights seen from a distance, only more brilliant. "We jumped to our feet," Peter Wilkinson reported, "but the light appeared to move into the distance, at an astonishing speed. It then became only a dot in the sky, veered to the right and disappeared."

Additional confirmation

The couple were disturbed by what they saw and hurried home. "No sooner had we covered two or three yards, however, when we saw the lights again, this time much closer, but with the same brilliance." This time the twin lights seemed to move towards the couple. "We were considerably worried and ran for a group of houses near us." By this time the twin lights were partially blotted out by some trees, but were still visible through the branches and had apparently stopped moving. When the couple had nearly reached the girl's home they met a group of five or six people talking by the road-side. Asked if they had seen anything, one of the group replied: "Oh, I expect it is a Russian flying saucer!" But they admitted to seeing the twin lights.

The height of the object during its second appearance was estimated to be "that of a low-flying aircraft." Peter Wilkinson dismissed the idea that it was an aircraft because of its speed and the brilliance of the lights, which were yellowish in colour. The night, incidentally, was brilliantly clear, a fact which disposes of the suggestion that the lights might have been those used in landings through cloud when a plane tries to pinpoint its position. The Air Ministry, for once, had no explanation and its spokesman stated: "I am afraid our met. men can throw no light on it. We doubt whether it was one of those radio-sonde balloons which are being sent up to collect data: the nearest one to Hoddesdon was sent up in Sussex. These balloons do drift, but if

(Continued on page 4 of cover)

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

SCOTLAND: Scores of witnesses

The Dundee *Courier and Advertiser* for June 19 carried under banner headlines, the following report: "A mystery object streaked low across the sky in East Scotland last night. It was seen in Dundee and parts of Angus and Perthshire. It created such an impression on those who saw it that dozens telephoned the *Courier* office asking for an explanation. The time was approximately 10.35 p.m. Descriptions of the object varied. But all reports agreed (a) that it was travelling at tremendous speed; (b) that it was flying low, in a straight line from west to east; (c) that it was noiseless; and (d) that height and speed remained constant.

"The first report telephoned in by a member of the *Courier* staff was of a brilliant white light which looked like a ball with a short tail, and only a few thousand feet up.

"'It had appeared and disappeared towards the river mouth so quickly that I hadn't time to draw anyone's attention to it,' he said.

"From a seat on Balgay Hill it appeared to a *Courier* reader and his wife as having a pinkish head followed by a green tail.

"'It covered the entire arc of the sky within our vision in about five seconds', he said. 'I got the impression it was some object under control, from the way it travelled at an even height and speed. There was no way of telling the size'.

"A *People's Journal* reporter said the tail attracted his attention.

"'It was long, and green and orange in colour. I thought it appeared to burn out over the sea beyond Carnoustie—just like a child's rocket burning out'.

"The coastguard on duty at Fifeness Coastguard Station had a 20-second view of the object.

"'It was travelling due east, fairly high in the sky, and was very bright until it disappeared behind clouds. Nothing dropped into the sea that I could see.

"'If I had two guesses they would be between a meteorite or a burnt-out sputnik', he added.

"He first spotted the object at exactly 10.38.

"'It was bright to start off with—that was roughly about the Broughty Ferry direction from here. It was an extremely white light, with a long tail on it. It was more like something earthy than a meteorite.

"'It grew smaller and smaller, and it had died into a red blob before it disappeared into cloud over the sea'.

"At 10.37 p.m. the object was seen from Forfar.

"An eye-witness said, 'We saw the projectile or satellite coming from the west. As Forfar is in a direct line with Barra we assumed it was a Corporal missile from the rocket range.

"'The object appeared as a point of green light with a red tail flying noiselessly at a relatively low height, heading in an easterly direction'.

"The projectile was seen skimming over Perth. Again it was described as green with a red tail, and flying low and silently. When it passed across vision the tail disappeared and it looked like an aeroplane light.

"In the North of Angus Mr. G. B. Rattray, Memus, said—'It was a very bright fluorescent green, going from west to east, and there seemed to be a long black object a yard or two ahead of the light. It was not very high but was going at a fearful speed, and there was no sound'.

"Mr. Peter Gardiner, 15 Rosefield Street, said he saw the object from Lansdowne Place. He described it as being white at the front, green in the middle and trailing a white plume behind it. Mr. Gardiner made the time about 10.35 p.m.

"Another observer described it as a bright red object with a green tail travelling extremely fast across the sky. He could see it for about five or six seconds.

"When *The Courier* telephoned R.A.F. Leuchars the controller there said they had had several reports, all of which tallied with those from Dundee.

"They did not know what it was, and were in the process of co-ordinating all the information received.

"In London the Air Ministry had received no report of anything strange.

"An official said they could not see how it could possibly be a stray Corporal missile from Barra.

"The range safety devices would not allow it to get away.

"It was suggested it might be an aircraft fairly high up, with the wind carrying away the sound.

"Dundee Police first received notification of the object in the sky from a man in Ellengowan Drive. He called the police to say he had seen a low flying object going past his window.

"Fifteen minutes later came a call from a woman in Graigiebank. She had seen a red light flashing right in the middle of the river. She was sure it was not a buoy.

"The police alerted the lifeboat and police officers were sent to investigate."

ENGLAND:

Similar object over North-East

The *Journal*, published at Newcastle upon Tyne on June 19 reported a similar object over north-east England on the same night as Scotland was visited (June 18). All the descriptions tallied as the reports flooded in. Mr. M. F. Scott of Bavington Drive, Fenham, Newcastle, who saw the object as he was walking through Blakelaw, said: "It was like a very bright star with a brilliant tail on it. It was travelling towards the coast and seemed to be very low and moving parallel to the ground." Mr. James Jobe, a mechanical engineer, said: "It seemed to be about 10,000 feet up and travelling at about 800 m.p.h. It had a greenish body and a long silver tail." Mr. Charles White, of Fern Drive, Bedlington, said he saw the object while driving his family home from the coast. His description is well worth quoting in full: "It was travelling at a fantastic speed in a very clear sky. It was only a few thousand yards up. It was quite frightening really — like something from another planet."

Mr. Derek Boyle said: "It gave us quite a shock. I've never believed in flying saucers before. Now I'm not so sure."

Although the Air Ministry Department for Unidentified Flying Objects said it may have been a satellite re-entering the earth's atmosphere. Mr. Frank J. Acfield, the Newcastle astronomer, said it was "99 per cent. certain to be a meteor."

The London *Times* of June 19 added that one witness said he saw what appeared to be a black object a yard or two ahead of it.

It will be seen that the object, or objects, seen over Scotland and the north-east of England, attracted the usual number of diverse "explanations," but if the evidence of the eye-witnesses are accepted none of them fit. However, the newspapers finally appeared to accept the meteor explanation and another aerial mystery was buried.
(Credit to Mr. W. R. Drake).

Seen in the South

The Unidentified Flying Object seen in the North of England and Scotland, may also have been seen in the south. Mr. Arthur Smith, of Holly Hill Crescent, Bassett, Southampton, who was returning home by car with his wife from Winchester, said: "We had passed Chilworth crossroads and were approaching Basset roundabout when we saw a bright object—at first we thought it was a bright shooting star, a very large one—travelling from west to east and in the sky over the New Forest. It trailed through the sky and then seemed to explode. It disappeared. We thought it was possibly a high-flying aircraft which was in trouble and which could have exploded. It was much brighter and bigger than an ordinary star and there was this peculiar bright flash at the end of it." Mr. Smith added that when he and his wife reached home a few minutes later, they saw what appeared to be a trail of dark-coloured smoke in the sky in the same area. He telephoned the police at Winchester but was told there were no reports of an aircraft in trouble.

No balloon

When UFOs are on the move they are explained as meteors: when they stand still, they become balloons—according to the experts. Or do they?

The London *Evening News* for June 19 reported that a mystery object was sighted stationary over Exeter Airport for some considerable time. Other reports mentioned that it could be seen for well over an hour. An official said: "It's been seen on radar north-east of Falmouth and we have had it under observation for some time but we still do not know what it is. We think it is about 50,000 feet. It's shining brightly and appears to be pretty big." The airport was inundated with calls from people who had seen it.

This UFO was rather more difficult to explain away. When the Air Ministry was asked by the newspapers for an explanation they offered the balloon theory as a suggestion and hinted that it might have been released by Bristol University. This "explanation" was jumped at and the *Daily Mail* for June 20 stated that "sky-hook balloons are launched from Bristol University to radio back soundings from the air." Other papers followed like sheep and another mystery was as good as buried.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, however, telephoned Bristol University and was told that they had not released such a balloon for over a year—a fact that any of the newspapers could have discovered for themselves. There was also another reason why the mystery object could not have been a balloon launched from Bristol. Exeter is 70 miles southwest of Bristol and reference to the wind and weather charts for June 19 all disclose that the wind was blowing steadily from the west during the whole period of the observation. If it had been a balloon it would have had to have been launched from America: in that case it would not have reached Exeter. Nor would it have stayed stationary for over an hour in the face of a 15 miles per hour wind: it would have passed over the town in about 15 minutes.

This incident well illustrates two points. It shows how anxious authority is never to admit ignorance and how careless newspapers are in accepting official explanations. The research undertaken by FLYING SAUCER REVIEW re-

vealed the truth in a few minutes. The various newspapers to whom the facts were made known preferred to ignore them and, as a result, the public at large has swallowed the balloon explanation.

We wonder if it occurred to the Exeter Airport Authorities or to any nearby R.A.F. base to send up a plane when the object was a mere 50,000 feet up and take a photograph of it at close quarters. This possibility was not even mentioned and the impression is given that strange objects hovering over our cities is a matter of no moment. We do not believe that the Exeter object was a secret weapon (Russia is not stupid enough to risk a secret weapon being photographed at close quarters, even if we are stupid enough not to make the attempt), but as the authorities seemed determined never to admit that a UFO could be interplanetary are we then to assume that our country can be overflown with impunity? The authorities cannot have it both ways: as the object was not a balloon and couldn't have been a hallucination then there must have been a spy in the air and yet nobody seems to worry about the state of our defences.
(This incident is also referred to in our leading article).

All over the place

After the north-east of England, Scotland, Southampton and Exeter, reports poured in from all over Great Britain concerning the visitation last June. The *Manchester Evening News* of June 19 reported that a witness living at Chorlton cum Hardy said: "I saw it quite distinctly from my home. It seemed to zigzag, which suggested that it was neither a shooting star nor an aircraft."

The *South Wales Evening Post* on the same day quoted Mr. Norman Williams of Gowerton as saying that he saw the object while motoring with his wife from Llandilo towards Swansea just before 11 p.m. The *Coventry Evening Express,* also on June 19, mentioned that Mr. E. K. Breakspear, a dental surgeon, had seen the object at about 10.30 p.m. and described it as "a bluish green light quite low down in the sky." The *Belfast Telegraph* carried yet another report. Mr. R. W. Donaldson of 90 University Street, Belfast, said: "While coming home last night from Carlingford we were passing Camber when I saw a brilliant light in the sky passing overhead in a clockwise direction. It was a ball of fire with a tail about four times the diameter of the ball." The *Birmingham Mail* (still June 19) said that the object had been seen over Balsall Common.

The epitaph on the events on June 19 has an amusing aspect. One or two newspapers, having swallowed the official explanations without another thought, tried to apply the Exeter balloon theory to the incidents elsewhere. It was overlooked that no balloon could have travelled at the speed assigned to it—after all, the object must have been pretty nippy to get from Angus in Scotland down to Southampton, looking in on Belfast at more or less the same time as well as paying a call on South Wales.

Like a car headlamp

Mr. R. V. Pigney, an experienced member of the Royal Observer Corps, has sent us a detailed report of a phenomenon which occurred on the night of June 30 from 9.50 to 10.10 p.m. The sighting occurred above Chadwell St. Mary, Grays, Essex.

At the times stated there was a glorious sunset which Mr. Pigney was observing when a brilliant white light appeared for about three seconds. It seemed to be about the size of a car headlamp about 200 yards away. The light appeared six times at different bearings but at the same apparent height. The first five sightings gave no indication of movement and appeared off and on. The sixth sighting appeared as bright and held its brightness until it slowly faded away, giving an impression of movement back in a N.N.E. direction. Mr. Pigney remarks that if what he saw were navigation lights they would, because of the size and brilliance, have been near and he would have heard the plane and even seen it against the light background. The fact that they were a brilliant white and did not flash destroys the theory of a conventional aircraft. Landing lights of this size would also have meant that the plane would have been very close.

Readers may like to compare this sighting with that over Hertfordshire (see page 25) which occurred on the same evening.

Essex again

The *Essex County Standard* of July 7 carried the following report which should be read in conjunction with the sighting related above: "Was the strange object that Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Watts, of Ryelands, Elmstead Market, saw in the sky on Friday evening a flying saucer? They think that it was, and would like to hear from anyone else who saw it.

"'Mr. Watts, who is a B.Sc., told a reporter this week that he and his wife saw a rather remarkable phenomenon in the western sky a little after 9.30 p.m.

"'It was beginning to get dusk,' he added, 'but at a quite low level were a pair of bright lights close together. The remarkable thing was that they were quite stationary and remained so for perhaps a minute before fading.

Faded rapidly

"'Some minutes later they reappeared in, as far as one could judge, identically the same spot. Again there was no motion against the sky, but after about a minute they began to move towards the north and rapidly faded. With the brilliance gone, one could see a dark object moving off in an arc against the sky.'

"Mr. Watts said that with the help of a friend—who claimed

to have seen the lights off Colchester—he was able to estimate that they were 18 to 20 miles from Elmstead Market just beyond Halstead.

" 'The apparent length of the object,' he went on, 'was about one-sixteenth of an inch on a ruler held at arm's length, which, at this range, makes the object 250 feet long.

Globemaster comparison

" 'I go to some trouble to mention this careful measurement because the Douglas Globemaster is perhaps the biggest aircraft which might have the same proportions as the object seen, and that has a length of only 127 feet.

" 'This would appear to me to be an authentic unidentified flying object or "saucer," and I would be very glad to hear from any other reliable observers who saw this object at closer quarters and could therefore shed some light on its nature.' "

(Credit to our reader Mr. A. Haughey).

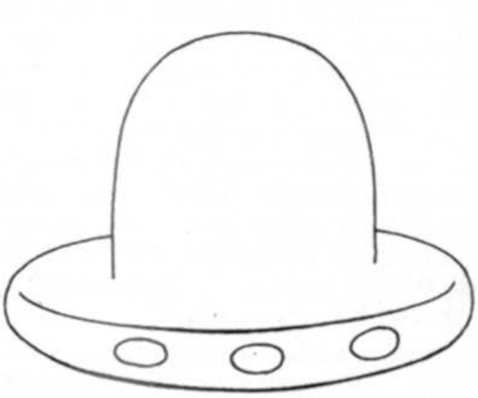
Off Essex

The London *Daily Mail* for July 7 printed the following account of a mysterious incident off the coast of Essex: "A report of an aircraft crashing into the North Sea 20 miles from Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, started a big air-sea search last night. Lifeboats were launched, cargo ships directed and a Royal Navy minesweeper sent to the scene to investigate. A helicopter also joined in.

"But the R.A.F., the U.S. Air Force, and Civil aviation authorities said they had no planes missing. The hunt was called off after four hours. The report came from the crew of a pilot cutter. They radioed that they had seen an object drop eight miles away."

Shepperton saucer

On Thursday, May 25, between 10 and 10.30 p.m., Miss Julia Cardoza, aged about 16 years, of Shepperton, Middlesex, noticed what appeared to be a brilliant point of yellow light in the western sky. As it came nearer and lower she was able to see more clearly the details of the object. It appeared to resemble a rather elongated bowler hat. The top part, which was all she could see at first, was glowing "like an electric light bulb" with a yellow light. Below it was a very



dark portion, and round the edge some "portholes" glowing with a greeny-grey light. The object made no sound at all. Finally, it disappeared behind the roof of a house opposite in a north-westerly direction. It travelled in roughly a straight line from the moment it was first observed until it went out of sight.

The witness prepared the sketch which we reproduce. Its apparent size, estimated by the witness, was 20-30 feet. Its distance from the witness was given at 150-200 yards and its speed at 20 m.p.h.

(Credit to Mr. Philip Heselton who investigated).

Isle of Wight saucers

The Isle of Wight County Press for July 8 carried the following report: "On successive nights (July 4 and 5) this week a strange unidentified object has been seen in the sky from Ryde and Seaview. An object was first sighted by Mrs. C. Smith, of St. David's, John Street, Ryde, and her daughter, Mrs. A. W. Taylor, from the flat roof at Mrs. Taylor's flat at 107 George Street, Ryde. At 35 minutes past midnight on Monday they were on the roof, which commands a view over the Solent, when Mrs. Smith saw a row of five lights in the direction of Seaview which looked like a ship, but which Mrs. Taylor realised was in the sky. The object came towards them, then stopped at about eye level. It appeared to have a top and base rather like a hovercraft, and the whole base emitted an orange light. Then it disappeared at high speed "faster than any jet plane" in the direction of Seaview, leaving behind it a ring of smoke which dissolved into a haze of light. Both Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Taylor told the *County Press* that the object seemed to be controlled. They had it under observation for about 15 minutes, and what impressed them was the complete absence of noise. On the following night Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Taylor kept observation at the same hour, but saw nothing beyond shooting stars.

"Commander C. C. Mole, of Iverley, Gully Road, Seaview, had risen at 4 a.m. on Wednesday (July 5) when he saw something bright overhead in an east-south-east direction and at an elevation of 15 degrees. It had the brilliance of a star of the first magnitude and he and his wife observed it through binoculars as a shining white ball about the size of a grapefruit. Commander Mole told the *County Press* that the object, which was very high up, had a reddish colouration on one side and emitted an occasional white light. It appeared to oscillate slightly, and at dawn they lost sight of it. The following night Commander Mole kept observation and again saw the object in approximately the same position. He said he had an open mind as to what it was."

Mr. Leonard G. Cramp, author of *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer*, who lives in the Isle of Wight, has undertaken a thorough investigation into these sightings and we hope to be able to publish his report in our next issue.

AUSTRALIA:

Silver-red object

The *Dublin Evening Express* for June 6 reported in its stop press as follows: "About 60 people watched a silvery-red object, identified as either spherical or conical in shape, perform what appeared to be aerobatics in clear sky over Millaa Millaa, Queensland yesterday. The object was seen for 90 minutes. An Australian Air Force plane was sent to investigate, but the object disappeared before the plane arrived. Meteorological officers at Cairns said it was unlikely that the object was a weather balloon."

Bethungra saucer

Four men are absolutely convinced that they saw a flying saucer on June 13 near the Bethungra railway station. They are the assistant station master, Mr. Tom Henshaw, of Junee, and three members of a railway gang, Mr. George Macdonald, Mr. Reg. Seymour and Mr. Jack Lloyd of Bethungra. Mr. Henshaw was the first to spot the object: he thought he heard the sound of a low-flying aircraft and went outside to investigate. He described what he saw as a glowing red object in the sky travelling across the station and adjoining land at a height a little above the telephone wires. As it moved it created a series of "whirly winds" sucking up dust in large clouds from any bare land. In its path it went perilously close to a lot of telephone lines and they were tangled in the process.

Mr. Henshaw went back to the station convinced, in his own words, that he had been "seeing things" and he specially noted the time which was 3.35 p.m. Not long afterwards the other three men whose names are given above went to the station to tell him that they had had a similar experience.

All four men describe the circular object as being about as large as a dinner plate, glowing red in colour with sparks shooting out and creating a noise as if powered by a motor.

Other reports of strange objects in the sky poured in the same week from Gundagai, Canberra, Atherton Tablelands, Goulburn and Young. Several members of a lamb-marking party at Toompang saw strange objects in the sky. One object left the first object and went to the left of it: later two others went to the right and came back. These objects which moved seemed to be round but as a witness got nearer they seemed to be V shaped. One of the men said that a tennis ball would have covered the big object: all were agreed that it was manufactured. They also said that their experience was so unbelievable that if any one of them had seen it alone, he "would have thought he was mad."

Our reader Mr. Rodney Western, who sent us the cutting from the *Junee Southern Cross* for June 19, also interviewed the witnesses who added that the object over Bethungra station emitted a sound like a sreaming whistle—much louder than that of a jet engine. They were also extremely puzzled by the fact that when first seen it seemed to be no higher than 40 or 50 feet, but when it changed course it managed to disappear over the Cootamundra Hills, about 800 feet above them, without appearing to gather any extra height.

WEST AFRICA:

Saucer over the Sudan

On May 14, the British commander of an East African Airways Comet airliner said on arrival at Nairobi that he and his crew had seen a flying saucer while flying across the Sudan the day before. Captain R. A. Airsworth, 37, said he saw the saucer just after dawn, not more than 50 miles away, flying parallel with his Comet. "It was like a very large green fire with a shower of red sparks behind it," he declared. He called his navigator, first officer and engineer officer, who all saw the object and agreed that it was either a flying saucer or an abandoned satellite.
(See *Madras Mail*, May 14, 1961).

SOUTH AFRICA:

Unearthly noise over Dundee

On April 28 Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Chiole of the farm Sushara, 12 miles from Dundee, were asleep when they were suddenly awakened by what they described as a "most unearthly noise." Mr. Chiole rushed out of the house to see a bright object with a fiery vapour trail pass over his house, travelling at great speed from west to east. He said his dogs were so terrified that one ran into a barbed-wire fence while the others cowered on the ground, whining. Two hours later, Mr. Chiole said, "the same horrible, whistling noise" and the same or a similar object following the same course passed over the house, but this time at a greater distance. He said that this object appeared to have lights and the ground trembled as the object passed.
(See *Natal Witness*, April 29, 1961).

George sees mystery object

On April 11 three residents of George were mystified to see an object which they considered was a parachute descending from the sky in the vicinity of Hansmoeskraal and Pacaltsdorp, a farming area and Coloured township about seven miles from George. Dr. and Mrs. L. P. Bruins, of George, were motoring in the direction of these two areas last evening when their daughter, Anne-Marie, who was in the car with them, drew their attention to an object in the sky.

In the misty weather they formed the opinion that it was a parachute with something dangling below it which they could not identify. It disappeared

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

An Angel Unawares

Sir,—Owing to the fact that it was necessary to condense the account of my experiences in the article "An Angel Unawares?", many details were omitted which might have answered the questions asked by Sir John Simeon (Mail Bag, May-June issue).

Although I have never given it much thought, I suppose that the reason the healing of the young lad went unnoticed was due to the fact that the attendants, the M.P's. and I were the only ones who had seen him when he was brought into the hospital in such bad shape the previous night. The attendants were, of course, on night shift and I don't imagine that they were around at the breakfast hour.

The second question asking the object of the "angel" guiding me to Cement is not so easily answered. I hesitate to attempt to explain in such a short space. The answer may be found in Pietro Di Donato's book *Christ in Concrete*.

"If the 'Angel' was in fact a 'Spaceman', why did he not occupy himself with more important matters than the above?" A good question and I might say that I have often asked it myself. I am sure that he did, but I have no way of knowing.

I did not question the two attendants in the hospital for the simple reason that I could not get up enough courage to approach them about it. I could add that I had the feeling that I should not question them but this does not make much sense perhaps. I do believe, however, that there are times when we have a sixth sense about such things.

I do not believe that I have any "facility" in sighting UFOs. I wish I did! I admit I certainly have seen more than my share and I cannot explain why, other than than to say that I have spent

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behind some trees after they had kept it in view for some minutes, Mrs. Bruins said the parachute appeared to be almost transparent and appeared to have black dots on it. About 25 minutes after the Bruins family had seen this object an aeroplane was heard flying over George.
(See *Pretoria News*, April 12, 1961).

SOUTHERN RHODESIA:

Mystery stars

The *Evening Standard* of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, carried the following report in its issue of May 3: "Three people in Salisbury saw stars last night. They are convinced that the moving lights they saw in the sky were not true stars—but unidentified flying objects. Mr. A. L. Cockcroft, 75 Malvern Road, Malvern, said his wife called him to look at a moving star at about 8 o'clock last night. 'I said nonsense. Five minutes later she called me again and said it was moving steadily towards the west. I went out to have a look', said Mr. Cockcroft.

"'There was bright moonlight and a clear sky. I could hardly see normal stars. But this reddish bright light, like a big star, moved slowly and regularly from east to west towards the horizon. Sometimes the light would go off and then on again. Sometimes it moved left or right, but kept on towards the west'.

"He and his wife watched the light for about two hours. Then they saw a second bright red light hanging in the west and then move towards the horizon. Both lights blinked on and off. The movements were irregular but the two lights moved steadily westward.

"'I was scared we were seeing things', Mr. Cockcroft said. 'So I called a neigbour to see them. He is Mr. C. Fraser of 76 Malvern Road. He saw the lights distinctly'."

a great deal of time looking for them. Before I heard of UFOs I don't suppose that I looked up at the sky very often. We spend most of our time occupied with what takes place here below. Perhaps if we looked up we might see many signs in the heavens.

I am grateful that my tears excited no comment. I do not generally show my feelings to that degree in public. I know that if I ever underwent another experience of that sort I would most likely react in the same manner.

I would like to thank the Editor and publishers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for their kindness in printing the article. I hope that in some way it will help to complete the picture.—Allan W. Edwards, Carmel, California.

Brickbat

Sir,—As an early subscriber to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW I am very surprised, to say the least of it, to read your widely speculative Editorial "A War of the Worlds?"

For the sake of our magazine's good name in the many circles in which it is said to circulate, it is surely of the utmost importance that its Editorials should be rational above all else.

I have felt for some time now that F.S.R. has been indulging in too much fancy and not enough fact. It may not, of course, be your fault that its columns have had to contain an increasing number of articles of questionable merit, but do please keep the quality of your Editorials at a level which will command respect.—Mrs. Gordon Clemetson, East Lodge, Groombridge, Kent.

(*Our reader implies that she is in possession of facts of which we are unaware. If so, we should be very pleased indeed if she would supply them for publication. Until our knowledge is absolute on this subject, theories cannot be excluded as speculation is an accepted method of dealing with the mysterious. Our columns are always open to critics who consider that we, or our contributors, have been irrational, but this letter contains assertions unsupported by argument—Editor*).

Bouquet

Sir,—I wish to thank you for the current (July-August) number of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW which is a remarkable one indeed.

Dr. Finch's article must be one of the most important saucer writings yet to appear and together with his letter takes the subject a decided step forward.

Is there a possibility that Dr. Fontes will be persuaded to expand his articles and publish them in book form? What would be the result if his analysis pattern were applied to the French sightings of 1954? How about the formation of an internaional team to study and correlate the orthotenic pattern around the world?

I would be most happy if we could have a regular feature from Mr. Creighton giving us a summary of articles in the Russian press on space travel, life on other worlds etc.—(Rev.) Robert A. Nelson, Churchtown, Dublin.

(*Our reader's suggestions have been carefully noted. Gordon W. Creighton is to contribute further articles on the Russian reactions to space travel and extra-terrestrial intelligences — Editor*).

Contact claims

Sir,—The Editor states in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (May-June, 1961, page 2) that Major Keyhoe and NICAP will be unsuccessful in their attempt to disprove the U.S. Air Force claim that flying saucers are merely misinterpreted phenomena unless they accept the contact claims as valid. Perhaps it has never occurred to the Editor that there is not a single reason to believe these yarns.

The reality of Unidentified Flying Objects has been proven beyond question through orthoteny, radar-visual sightings, physical evidence, etc., etc., but the validity of the contact claims rests only in the testimony of the "contactees" themselves. It is interesting to note that all contact claimants have used their alleged experiences for monetary gain.

The truth has never been found by accepting lies.—Jerome Clark, Box 1, Canby, Minnesota, U.S.A.

(*Mr. Jerome Clark has not read our comments carefully enough. We did not ask NICAP to accept any or all of the contact claims as valid. What we suggested was that they should be investigated with an open mind and, indeed, we have offered to print in this* REVIEW *any well-documented exposure of a fraudulent claim. The fact that flying saucers have been proved by orthoteny etc. is irrelevant because the public at large remains either ignorant of Michel's testimony or indifferent to it, and we suggested that proof of a landing could be much more convincing. Furthermore, the* REVIEW *has printed a suggestion from Dr. Finch (see Mail Bag, July-August issue) whereby landing claims could be tested in a practical manner. To dismiss* all *contact claims as fraudulent is not a reliable method of investigation. On what authority does Mr. Clark assert that "there is not a single reason to believe these yarns"? Even if it were true (which it is not) that all contactees have used their alleged experiences for monetary gain, why should a reward for writing or lecturing be regarded as proof of dishonesty?—Editor.*)

Through a glass darkly

Sir,—It has generally been accepted that the late Sir Harold Spencer-Jones, former Astronomer Royal, did not acknowledge the existence of Flying Saucers and would have buried the subject: he is said to have regarded the whole question as tiresome.

In 1957 I attended a lecture by Sir Harold on "The Geophysical Year." The occasion was at a luncheon club and about a hundred people were present. After and excellent and interesting talk,

which ranged over the various aspects of collecting and combining information on geophysics and meteorological phenomena, he asked for questions. With the reluctance of one who hates making a fool of himself in public I said, "Was it ever suggested that information about Unidentified Flying Objects should be collected and pooled?", to which he quickly said, "No." I then asked if he would tell us anything about theories concerning UFOs, frequently called Flying Saucers, and he replied that he had nothing to say on the subject, and that he did not consider the subject merited research—or words to that effect. I made one more effort: we all considered him a most distinguished Scientist and as such would he not be prepared to admit that strange "things" had been observed and that, therefore, could we expect some guidance from him as to what they might be. There was a very awkward and indeed an embarrassing pause and he said quietly, "All I can say is that we now see through a glass darkly." So far as I can remember those were his actual words, and I had the impression that I had touched a sensitive spot. I could not pursue the matter further, much as I should have wished to do so, as I was a guest of the Club and I did not want to embarrass my host. Afterwards I met Sir Harold and we talked of other things.—Gilbert S. Inglefield, London, S.W.1.

Cedric Allingham

Sir,—In your July-August issue you print a letter enquiring for the whereabouts of two missing contact claimants. Might I also ask if there has been any further news of Cedric Allingham? I know that he is supposed to have died in a Swiss sanatorium, but considerable doubt has been cast on this. Would it not be possible to discover some friend or relative of his who could tell us more about him? He lectured, I believe, at Tunbridge Wells and there must be at least one among his audience who spoke to him and who may have gathered some details of his private life. After all, his photograph appeared in his book, *Flying Saucer from Mars*, and he is supposed to have been a thriller writer under another name. I do not find his death quite so mysterious as the fact that he appears to have gone through life without having left any traces. I would like to suggest a search for people who knew him well and then to ask them what really happened to him. We are much too inclined, I feel, to let our chances slip and to allow old mysteries to fade instead of pursuing them. I feel there is a lot more even now to be discovered about Cedric Allingham. — Henry Barron, Ipswich.

(*We agree with reader Barron's comment that we are much too inclined to let matters rest where contact claims are involved. We have repeatedly called for a more thorough investigation. Even if the claims are proved to be fraudlent, the research would not be wasted for the ground would at least be cleared of some weeds. We have also insisted that accusations of dishonesty are not in themselves enough.—Editor.*)

A wide response

Sir,—I thought you might like to know that in response to my personal column advertisement in the May-June issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW I had replies from Switzerland, Italy, Holland, the United States of America as well as the United Kingdom.

It would appear that the magazine has a world-wide readership. —L. H. Navier, 19 Ormonde Avenue, Hull.

The Planet Venus

Sir,—*Soviet News No.* 4466 dated May 13, 1961, contains a Russian claim to have established by means of radio ray rebounds, the true length of the day of Venus (or its rotation period) which they say is about equal to ten earth days of 24 hours each. But they add that it could actually be eleven earth days if the axis of rotation of Venus is perpendicular, or nine earth days if the axis of rotation of Venus is inclined. — Walter Firminger, 10b Canterbury Road, Ashford, Kent.

Venus and Adamski

Sir,—There is a remarkable confirmation in astronomer Firsoff's article on the Venusian atmosphere of the information George Adamski gave me during my visit in 1954.

Adamski said that the reason we had not spotted a breathable atmosphere on Venus very similar to our own was that our methods of observation simply were not good enough. His "visitors" had told him that once we succeeded in getting our instruments above our atmosphere (such as was practically achieved by the U.S. stratospheric balloon) we would get a much truer picture and be surprised to discover how alike the two planets were, atmospherically. The "visitors" also told him that the Venusian day was slightly shorter than our own, and that the general temperature was a little hotter but with less extremes of climate than on Earth.

He also spoke of Venus having a "firmament," a protective layer in the higher atmosphere which shielded it from a number of harmful rays. If I recall correctly, he said that this was one of the causes of Venusian longevity. At the time I confess I felt this sounded rather cranky, but, on reflection, I feel he was referring to the thick CO_2 layer described by Firsoff.

Altogether, Firsoff's article is an astounding confirmation. But then I suppose it was to be expected. For who better would know what the Venusian air consisted of than the people who actually live there?—Desmond Leslie, 36 South Lodge, Grove End Road, London, N.W.8.

LIGHTS OVER HERTFORDSHIRE

(*Continued from page 25*)

it had drifted so far it would either have been too high to see or would have burst."

Confirmation of this sighting was to come from a number of other witnesses. The *Hertfordshire Mercury* in the same issue reported as follows: "Yet another group of people has seen the mystery twin lights hovering over the East Herts countryside. This time six people at Butlers Hall, near Ware, saw two bright yellow lights in the Widford direction, between 10 and 10.30 p.m. on Friday evening (June 30). Mrs. J. Plumtree, who lives at Butlers Hall, said: 'I was standing outside my house, with my husband, my father, Mr. R. H. Stevens, Mr. A. Fowler, of Sheffield, Mrs. Fowler and Miss E. Menhinnick, of Widbury Farm. The lights appeared over Widford direction. They were bright yellow. We saw them for about 10 minutes, then they appeared to be either switched off, or to be going away from us at a tremendous speed. The lights were terribly intense and almost hurt our eyes to look at them. About 20 minutes later, my husband and Mr. Fowler saw them again in exactly the same position.'"

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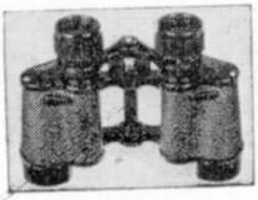

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